

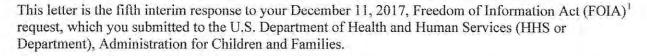
Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs Washington, D.C. 20201

Request No. 2018-00042-C-OS Equity Forward v. HHS, Civil No. 18-0241 (D.D.C.)

December 28, 2018

Mary Alice Carter Equity Forward 85 Broad Street New York, NY 10004

Dear Ms. Carter:



Specifically, you requested access to and copies of certain correspondence involving the following 11 officials and employees within the Department, Administration for Children and Families:

- Scott Lloyd
- · Maggie Wynne
- · Jonathan White
- · Curi Kim
- · Judith Haron
- · Anna Marie Bena
- Scott Logan
- Tricia Swartz (Associate Deputy, ORR)
- Jallyn Sualog (Director of Children Services)
- James De La Cruz (Houston Field Supervisor)
- Dr. David Teuscher (Region 6 Director)

You also specifically requested access to and copies of all correspondence sent by, sent to, or carbon-copying ("CC") any of these individuals during the months of March, May, September or October 2017, which included any of the following 24 keywords or phrases:

- · "pregnancy"
- · "pregnant"
- · "ORR director"
- · "abortion"
- "ru-486"
- "CPC"
- · "ultrasound"
- · "rape"
- · "nonconsensual"
- · "Gestational"
- · "judicial bypass"

¹ 5 U.S.C. § 552





Page 2 of 3
Request No. 2018-00042-C-OS
Equity Forward v. HHS, Civil No. 18-0241 (D.D.C.)

- · "life affirming"
- · "unborn child"
- · "spiritual counseling"
- · "options counseling"
- · "WTF"
- · "Terminating"
- · "terminate"
- · "termination"
- · "Pregnancy notification"
- · "Pregnancy notivations"
- · "Scott is"
- · "Scott said"
- · "from Scott"

Your request was forwarded to this office to conduct a search for records from custodians Maggie Wynne, Judith Haron and Dr. David Teuscher.

For this fifth interim response, the HHS Office of the Secretary has processed 883 pages of potentially responsive records captured in the agency's search of Dr. Teuscher's records. After a careful review of these pages, I have determined to release 846 pages to you in their entirety, and I am further releasing 32 pages in part, with portions redacted, pursuant to Exemptions (b)(4), (b)(5), and (b)(6) of the FOIA.²

Regarding the five (5) remaining pages, those pages originated outside the Office of the HHS Secretary, and are being referred to two other FOIA Offices for review and a direct response to you. One (1) page is being referred to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and four (4) pages are being referred to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Contact information for those offices is provided below:

Freedom of Information Officer 5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1035 Rockville, MD 20857 Phone: 301-796-3900 FOIA Officer: Sarah Kotler

FEMA Information Management Division FOIA Officer 500 C Street, S.W., Mailstop 3172 Washington, D.C. 20472 Phone: (202) 646-3323 Chief, Disclosure Branch: Eric Neuschaefer fema-foia@fema.dhs.gov

FOIA Exemption (b)(4) protects "trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person [that is] privileged or confidential." The threshold requirement that must be met to invoke Exemption 4 is that the information at issue must be commercial or financial. The second requirement that must be met in order to invoke this Exemption is that the commercial or financial information must be provided by a person. Under the FOIA, the definition of a person encompasses a broad spectrum of

^{2 (5} U.S.C. §§ 552(b)(4), (b)(5), (b)(6))



Page 3 of 3
Request No. 2018-00042-C-OS
Equity Forward v. HHS, Civil No. 18-0241 (D.D.C.)

entities, including individuals, corporations, state (non-Federal) governments and tribal entities who have submitted information to the Federal government.

FOIA exemption (b)(5) protects inter-agency or intra-agency memoranda or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency. This exemption protects documents that would be covered by any privilege an agency could assert in a civil proceeding. These privileges include, among others, the deliberative process privilege, the attorney-client privilege, and the attorney work-product privilege.

FOIA exemption (b)(6) permits a Federal agency to withhold information and records about individuals in "personnel and medical files and similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." The definition of "similar files" has historically been broadly interpreted to include a wide variety of files, and the United States Supreme Court has held that Congress intended the term "similar files" to be interpreted broadly, rather than narrowly. I have analyzed these records and find they meet the threshold requirement of this exemption. Additionally, I have reviewed and weighed the public interest in disclosure of this information against the privacy interest in nondisclosure, and found that the privacy interest outweighs the public's interest in disclosure.

We will continue to review the remaining records as efficiently and expeditiously as possible, consistent with our available resources and the Order of the Court. Should you have questions or concerns regarding the Department's response and\or the processing of your request, any such issues should be communicated to your legal counsel and Department of Justice Attorney representing the Department in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Michael S. Marquis

Director

Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts Division

211.2



From: Parnell, June (PSC/RLO/BOS) (CTR)

Sent: 3 Oct 2017 22:30:53 +0000

Fo: Tulloch, Barbara G. (IHS/DES);Bingham, Stephanie (HHS/OCR);Williams, Carla

(HRSA); Jones, Carolyn J. (IHS/DES); Rambo, Carolyn A. (CMS/CQISCO); Cisneros, Oscar

(OS/ASA/OCIO);Creswell, Patricia (PSC/RLO/BOS) (CTR);Lee, Derek B. (ACL);Brookins, Diane (ACF);Dito, Matt (PSC/FMP/CAS);Williams, Ernesta B. (CMS/CQISCO);Grays, Sharonda (HHS/OCR);Hayes-Mohl,

Janice (PSC/FMP/CAS); Boyle, Jennifer (HHS/OGC); Lothrop, Julia (HHS/IEA); Grooms, Kiran

(HHS/OCR); Alanis, Maribel (OS/ASA/OCIO/ITIO) (CTR); McAdams, Lisa M. (CMS/CQISCO); Moreno,

Nichole (ACF); Nwigwe, Vaniecy (OS/OCR); Jeffery, Shandrea M (HHS/OASH); Gooden, Shelby

(HHS/IEA); Smith, Marisa (HHS/OCR); Jordan, Tara (HHS/OGC); Russell, Wendy (ACF); Williams, Demetra

(ACF); Brice-Smith, Angela M. (CMS/CQISCO); Dito, Matt (PSC/FMP/CAS); Hearod, Karen

(SAMHSA); Jackson, Princess (HRSA); Bryant, Jamie (PSC/FOH/EHSS); Karim, Arif (PSC/FMP/CAS); Lee, Derek B. (ACL); Massoudi, Mehran (HHS/OASH); Parnell, June (PSC/RLO/BOS) (CTR); Devine, Percy (ACL); Pope Jackson, LaKesha (ACF); Teuscher, David (HHS/IEA); Turner, Mervin D. (HHS/OGC); Weaver,

Michael R. (IHS/DES); Wellspring, Howard W. (IHS/DES)

Cc: Ross, Brenda (PSC/FOH/CHS); Ward, Mariah (PSC/FOH) (CTR)

Subject: Flu Shots - 1301 Young Street

Attachments: CDC Influenza VIS 2015.pdf, FOH-52 Client Screening Questionnaire and Acknowledgement Form for Inactivated Injectable Influenza Vaccination 2017-18.pdf, FOH-HS Health Summary Form.pdf

****** Please Distribute To All HHS Employees *******

Good day, everyone.

The influenza vaccine (flu shot) clinics are going to begin on **Wednesday**, **October 4th**, **2017**. The vaccine clinic hours are below.

Federal Occupational Health Clinic at 1301 Young St. Suite 150, Dallas, TX 75202. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Please be sure to bring your federal PIV badge with you to the flu clinic.

If you need to come in at times outside of the hours above, please contact the clinic at 214-767-3286. We will do our best to accommodate if given sufficient advanced notice.

The Flu Vaccine Information Sheet (attached) should be read by everyone wishing to get the influenza vaccine. It is provided for your information and safety. Ask the nurse if you have any questions about this document before the receiving the vaccine.

The Influenza Questionnaire and Acknowledgement forms (attached) will need to be filled out before receiving the flu vaccine. Safety is our priority. Therefore, if the first page and/or Part 1 of second page of the Influenza Questionnaire and Acknowledgement forms is not completely



filled out that person will be asked to go back to the waiting room to complete the form. All client sections have to be completed including allergies, medications, and contact information. It is appropriate to attach a separate paper if more space is needed to list medications or allergies. Nurses are not allowed to administer influenza vaccines until the forms are complete. All forms will be available at the clinic for pick up during normal business hours. We can only accept completed forms when it is time to give the vaccine. Please do not leave completed or incomplete forms at the clinic, we cannot accept them early.

If any employees are new to FOH or have not completed a new health summary in the last year, we recommended they complete one. A fillable PDF has been attached to this email for your convenience. Health summary (FOH-HS) forms are valid for one year. This form must be updated annually for any non-emergency medical care for employees whose agencies have service agreements with FOH. The flu vaccine is the only service that does not require an up to date health summary. It is highly recommended to be completed in case of an emergency, but not required to receive a flu shot.

It is recommended to wear clothing that is easily removed from your upper arms on the day you come in for the flu vaccine.

The first few weeks of flu clinics are the busiest, please plan your visit accordingly.

Thank you,

Mariah Ward, BSN, RN
Area Clinic Manager, Clinical Health Services
Federal Occupational Health
Program Support Center
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
3651 S. IH35
Mail Stop 1551 AUSC
Austin, TX 78741

Office: (737) 800-6031 (NEW)
Fax: (737) 800-4974 (NEW)
Cell: (D)(6) (NEW)

foh.psc.gov psc.gov







VACCINE INFORMATION STATEMENT

Influenza (Flu) Vaccine (Inactivated or Recombinant): What you need to know

Many Vaccine Information Statements are available in Spanish and other languages. See www.immunize.org/vis

Hojas de información sobre vacunas están disponibles en español y en muchos otros idiomas. Visite www.immunize.org/vis

1 Why get vaccinated?

Influenza ("flu") is a contagious disease that spreads around the United States every year, usually between October and May.

Flu is caused by influenza viruses, and is spread mainly by coughing, sneezing, and close contact.

Anyone can get flu. Flu strikes suddenly and can last several days. Symptoms vary by age, but can include:

- · fever/chills
- sore throat
- · muscle aches
- · fatigue
- · cough
- · headache
- · runny or stuffy nose

Flu can also lead to pneumonia and blood infections, and cause diarrhea and seizures in children. If you have a medical condition, such as heart or lung disease, flu can make it worse.

Flu is more dangerous for some people. Infants and young children, people 65 years of age and older, pregnant women, and people with certain health conditions or a weakened immune system are at greatest risk.

Each year thousands of people in the United States die from flu, and many more are hospitalized.

Flu vaccine can:

keep you from getting flu,

EHOIGH

- · make flu less severe if you do get it, and
- keep you from spreading flu to your family and other people.

2 | Inactivated and recombinant flu vaccines

A dose of flu vaccine is recommended every flu season. Children 6 months through 8 years of age may need two doses during the same flu season. Everyone else needs only one dose each flu season.

Some inactivated flu vaccines contain a very small amount of a mercury-based preservative called thimerosal. Studies have not shown thimerosal in vaccines to be harmful, but flu vaccines that do not contain thimerosal are available.

There is no live flu virus in flu shots. They cannot cause the flu.

There are many flu viruses, and they are always changing. Each year a new flu vaccine is made to protect against three or four viruses that are likely to cause disease in the upcoming flu season. But even when the vaccine doesn't exactly match these viruses, it may still provide some protection.

Flu vaccine cannot prevent:

- flu that is caused by a virus not covered by the vaccine, or
- illnesses that look like flu but are not.

It takes about 2 weeks for protection to develop after vaccination, and protection lasts through the flu season.

Some people should not get this vaccine

Tell the person who is giving you the vaccine:

- If you have any severe, life-threatening allergies. If you ever had a life-threatening allergic reaction after a dose of flu vaccine, or have a severe allergy to any part of this vaccine, you may be advised not to get vaccinated. Most, but not all, types of flu vaccine contain a small amount of egg protein.
- If you ever had Guillain-Barré Syndrome (also called GBS).

Some people with a history of GBS should not get this vaccine. This should be discussed with your doctor.

If you are not feeling well.

It is usually okay to get flu vaccine when you have a mild illness, but you might be asked to come back when you feel better.



4 Risks of a vaccine reaction

With any medicine, including vaccines, there is a chance of reactions. These are usually mild and go away on their own, but serious reactions are also possible.

Most people who get a flu shot do not have any problems with it.

Minor problems following a flu shot include:

- soreness, redness, or swelling where the shot was given
- · hoarseness
- · sore, red or itchy eyes
- · cough
- · fever
- · aches
- · headache
- itching
- · fatigue

If these problems occur, they usually begin soon after the shot and last 1 or 2 days.

More serious problems following a flu shot can include the following:

- There may be a small increased risk of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) after inactivated flu vaccine. This risk has been estimated at 1 or 2 additional cases per million people vaccinated. This is much lower than the risk of severe complications from flu, which can be prevented by flu vaccine.
- Young children who get the flu shot along with pneumococcal vaccine (PCV13) and/or DTaP vaccine at the same time might be slightly more likely to have a seizure caused by fever. Ask your doctor for more information. Tell your doctor if a child who is getting flu vaccine has ever had a seizure.

Problems that could happen after any injected vaccine:

- People sometimes faint after a medical procedure, including vaccination. Sitting or lying down for about 15 minutes can help prevent fainting, and injuries caused by a fall. Tell your doctor if you feel dizzy, or have vision changes or ringing in the ears.
- Some people get severe pain in the shoulder and have difficulty moving the arm where a shot was given. This happens very rarely.
- Any medication can cause a severe allergic reaction.
 Such reactions from a vaccine are very rare, estimated at about 1 in a million doses, and would happen within a few minutes to a few hours after the vaccination.

As with any medicine, there is a very remote chance of a vaccine causing a serious injury or death.

The safety of vaccines is always being monitored. For more information, visit: www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/

What if there is a serious reaction?

What should I look for?

 Look for anything that concerns you, such as signs of a severe allergic reaction, very high fever, or unusual behavior.

Signs of a severe allergic reaction can include hives, swelling of the face and throat, difficulty breathing, a fast heartbeat, dizziness, and weakness. These would start a few minutes to a few hours after the vaccination.

What should I do?

- If you think it is a severe allergic reaction or other emergency that can't wait, call 9-1-1 and get the person to the nearest hospital. Otherwise, call your doctor.
- Reactions should be reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Your doctor should file this report, or you can do it yourself through the VAERS web site at www.vaers.hhs.gov, or by calling 1-800-822-7967.

VAERS does not give medical advice.

6

The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program

The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP) is a federal program that was created to compensate people who may have been injured by certain vaccines.

Persons who believe they may have been injured by a vaccine can learn about the program and about filing a claim by calling **1-800-338-2382** or visiting the VICP website at **www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation**. There is a time limit to file a claim for compensation.

7 | How can I learn more?

- Ask your healthcare provider. He or she can give you the vaccine package insert or suggest other sources of information.
- Call your local or state health department.
- Contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
 - Call 1-800-232-4636 (1-800-CDC-INFO) or
 - Visit CDC's website at www.cdc.gov/flu

Vaccine Information Statement

Inactivated Influenza Vaccine

08/07/2015

42 U.S.C. § 300aa-26





U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Client Screening Questionnaire and Acknowledgement Form for Inactivated Injectable Influenza Vaccination

	lient's Name: Date of	Date of Birth:					
	Screening Questionnaire for Inactivated Injectable Influenza Vac		ioı	n			
; ;	Adults wanting to be vaccinated: The following questions will help any reason you should not receive injectable influenza vaccine to 'Yes" to any question, it does not necessarily mean you should not means additional questions must be asked by the attending clinician appropriateness for you to receive the vaccine. If a question is not clattending clinician for clarification.	day. If yo be vaco to verify	ou a cinat me	nswer ted. It edical			
		YE	S	NO	DON'T KNOW		
1.	Are you sick today?						
2.	Do you have an allergy to eggs or to any component of the vaccine	?					
3.	Have you ever had a serious reaction to influenza vaccine in the pa	st?	-				
4.	Have you ever had Guillain-Barre Syndrome?						
Clie	nt's Signature: Date	:					
-							



CLIENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM FOR 2017-18 INFLUENZA VACCINATION

The CDC recommends annual flu vaccination as the first and most important step in protecting against influenza virus. By getting vaccinated, you are not only protecting yourself, you are protecting your family, friends and co-workers. This season the influenza vaccine will protect against H1N1 virus strain. Since seasonal influenza activity usually lasts from October to May, immunization may continue from August to April. The information you provide to complete this form indicates you understand the benefits and the risks of receiving the influenza vaccine, as indicated in the CDC's Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) and are requesting to be vaccinated.

NOTE: There is no recommendation for <u>pregnant women or people with pre-existing medical conditions</u> to seek special permission or secure written consent from their doctor for influenza vaccination if they are vaccinated at a worksite clinic, pharmacy, or other location outside of their physician's office. For more information, visit: **http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/qa/misconceptions.htm**

Part 1: EMPLOYEE INFORMATION (Completed by client)											
NAME:	Last		First		MI						
	Las	st 4 digits of Social Security # XXX-XX-		Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY):							
	Worksite Address										
Stree	et										
Cit	у		State		Zip						
Agenc	:у			Work Phone #							
Work ema	il										
		Allergies (drug/food):								
		Medications I am curre	Medications I am currently taking:								
		Employee	Signature:								

PRIVACY ACT NOTICE

The information obtained in completing this form is used to assist Federal Occupational Health in managing its responsibilities under one or more interagency agreements with your employing agency. Collection and use of this information is consistent with provisions of 5 USC 552a, 5 USC 7901, and Public Law 103-356.

This information will become part of your official Employee Medical File (if you have one), and will be used only for official purposes as published annually in the Federal Register under OPM/GOVT-10 (the OPM system of records). Participation in the FOH Influenza vaccination campaign is **voluntary**.

PART 2: SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINE RECORD (Completed by clinician)

FOH Occup	oational Health	Center:	QUADRIVALENT INFLUENZA VIRUS VACCINE:				
1350DDddiang 54./5620250h: 214-767- 5分格点, 所次7 <i>526</i> 2767-8354 Ph: 214-767-3286, Fax: 214-767-8354			A/Singapore/GP1908 (H1N1) (an A/Michigan/45/2015 -like virus) A/Singapore/GP2050/2015 (H3N2) (an A/Hong Kong/4801/2014-like virus) B/Utah/9/2014 (a B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus)				
Clinician's Name:			B/Hong Kong/25	g/259/2010 (a B/Brisbane/60/08-like virus)			
Clinician's Title:			Manufacturer:				
Clinician's Signature:			Expiration Date:				
Date:			Vaccine Lot #:		Dose:		
IM Injection site		Left Deltoid	CDC VIS Date:	8/07/201 5			
(check one):		Right Deltoid	Date VIS Given:				
If we saine not siven		Contraindications					
If vaccine not given, provide reason why:		Client Refusal					
provide reason wily.		Other (specify)					



A comprehensive history is an important part of your medical record. Please complete this confidential questionnaire on your first visit as accurately as possible by placing a check mark (V) in the appropriate spaces and by printing/typing other information as requested.

DATE:		
1. IDENTIFICATION	Sex:	
LAST NAME FIRST NAME (no nickname) MIDDLE NAME	SURNAME (at birth)	
SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (9 DIGITS) DATE OF BIRTH	HOME E-MAIL ADDRESS	
AGENCY / DEPARTMENT BUILDING & ROOM	WORK E-MAIL ADDRESS	
WORK ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP	WORK PHONE NUMBER	
JOB TITLE SUPERVISOR	R SUPERVISOR'S PHONE NUMBER	
EMERGENCY CONTACT PERSON RELATIONSHIP	IIP EMERGENCY CONTACT'S PHONE NUMBER	
PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN'S NAME, ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP	PHYSICIAN'S (PCP) PHONE NUMBER	
HOME MAILING ADDRESS, CITY STATE AND ZIP	HOME PHONE NUMBER	
2. IMMUNIZATIONS (enter date received, if known) Have you received the Hepatitis B Vaccine? Yes No If "Yes" number of shots? 1 2 3 Year Completed	5. ALLERGIES ☐ Drugs (specify below) ☐ Pollen ☐ Food (specify belom ☐ Dust or Molds ☐ Animals ☐ Other (specify below)	
Tetanus (Td/TDaP) Hepatitis A vaccine: Influenza Varicella (chickenpox) Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Zoster (shingles) vaccine Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) vaccine: Pneumococcal 23 / PCV13: Smallpox vaccine: Anthrax vaccine: Yellow Fever vaccine Have you traveled outside the U.S. in the last 12 months? Yes No If "Yes" – where? 3. SOCIAL HISTORY Have you ever used tobacco? Yes No If you answered Yes: Current Past – Years since quitting? Type: Cigarettes Pipe Cigar Chewing tobacco How many per day? For how long? What is your average alcohol consumption in a week? Drinks (1 drink = 12 oz. beer, 5 oz. wine, 1.5 oz. liquor) How often do you drink alcohol? Weekdays Weekends Both What form of alcohol do you drink? Do you ever feel you need to cut down on your drinking? Yes No Do you ever feel anxious about your drinking? Yes No What is the earliest time of day you have a drink? 4. RELATIONSHIP HISTORY Have you ever been hit, kicked, punched or otherwise hurt by someone within the past year? Yes No	Heart murmur Ulcers Hepatitis Usual deficit Other medical / psychiatric disorders – Specify:	erides sladder sease
Is there a partner from a previous relationship who is making you feel unsafe/uncomfortable now? Yes No Client's Signature: Date:	Health Provider's Signature: Date:	

MEDICATION RECONCILIATION

A review of an all-inclusive, current list of medications you are taking is necessary to safely evaluate your health condition and/or provide medications and/or occupational health services to you. Please list all medications (prescription and non-prescription, over-the-counter, vitamin supplements and holistic remedies, etc.). Please provide the name, dosage, route, frequency and purpose for each item you take:

Medications (include over-the-counter, vitamins, prescriptions, minerals and herbal supplements)	Strength (each tablet, mg., capsule, international unit, etc.)	Dose (number of tabs, caps, etc.)	Route (by mouth, injection, patch, suppository, etc.)	Frequency (once daily, twice a day, monthly, bedtime, etc.)	Purpose (Why are you taking this?)	Start Date	Stop Date	Client's Initials	Date of Entry	Clinician Reviewer Initials
I voluntarily authorize a ph perform reasonable and ne health clinic. I understand be asked to read and sign of Client Signature:	ecessary medi that if additio	cal examin nal testing sent forms	nation, treatn g or invasive s prior to the	nent, or service or intervention test or procedu	s for the condition al procedures are i	that has br recommend	ought me led and wil	to seek car Il be inform	e in this oc ned in this	cupational
Client's Name:					Date	e of Birth: _				



Clinician: I		n: Initial one of the	se boxes.	5.1	Clinician: Initial one of these boxes.				
Review	No Change	Medication Added	Medication Deleted	Date of Review	No Change	Medication Added	Medication Deleted		

AM	
	FRSIGHT
N A	FOH-HS Health Summary

Client's Name:

Date of Birth:

From: Singleton, Ladonna (HHS/IEA)
Sent: 26 Sep 2017 21:34:55 +0000

To: Teuscher, David (HHS/IEA); Moore, Veronica (HHS/IEA)

Cc: Lothrop, Julia (HHS/IEA)

Subject: FW: Grants - HHS commits \$144.1 million in additional funding for opioid crisis

News Release

U.S. Department of Health and
Human Services

202-690-6343

media@hhs.gov
www.hhs.gov/news
Twitter @HHSMedia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, September 15, 2017

UPDATED

HHS commits \$144.1 million in additional funding for opioid crisis

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has awarded an additional \$144.1 million in grants to prevent and treat opioid addiction in support of President Trump's commitment to combat the opioid crisis. The grants will be administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

"Those supporting prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts in our local communities are heroes in our nation's battle against the opioid crisis," said HHS Secretary Tom Price, M.D. "On our nationwide listening tour, we have heard how critical federal resources can empower their efforts to meet the challenges of substance abuse and addiction, especially with the opioid crisis. These grants will help expand treatment and recovery services to pregnant and postpartum women who are struggling with substance abuse, train our first responders to effectively use overdose reversing drugs, improve access to medication-assisted treatment, and increase long term recovery services. Together, we can heal communities and save lives."

According to SAMHSA's National Survey on Drug Use and Health, in 2016 an estimated 11.8 million people misused opioids in the past year, including prescription pain relievers and heroin. Preliminary data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for 2016 suggests the number of drug overdose deaths, most of them due to opioids will likely top 60,000.

"Opioid use disorders continue to plague our nation," said Dr. Elinore McCance-Katz, Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use. "These funds will support and expand prevention, treatment and recovery services in America's communities."

The first four of the six grant programs listed below were authorized in the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) of 2016, (P.L. 114-198). CARA authorized funding



to fight the opioid epidemic through prevention, treatment, recovery, overdose reversal, and other efforts. The fifth grant program listed, Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), received an increase in funding for opioids in the fiscal year 2017 Omnibus Appropriations bill.

SAMHSA is issuing the funding through the six grant programs listed below in the following amounts:

- First Responders Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act \$44.7 million. The purpose of this program is to provide training and medication for emergency treatment of opioid overdose. https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/awards/2017/SP-17-005
- State Pilot Grant for Treatment of Pregnant and Postpartum Women Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act \$9.8 million. The purpose of the
 program is to support family-based services for pregnant and postpartum women
 with a primary diagnosis of a substance use disorder, including opioid use
 disorders. https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/awards/2017/TI-17-016
- Building Communities of Recovery Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery
 Act \$4.6 million. The purpose of this program is to increase the availability of
 long-term recovery support for substance abuse and addiction.
 https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/awards/2017/TI-17-015
- Improving Access to Overdose Treatment Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act \$1 million. The purpose of this program is to expand access to FDA-approved drugs or devices for emergency treatment of opioid overdose. https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/awards/2017/SP-17-006
- Targeted Capacity Expansion: Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Prescription Drug and Opioid Addiction \$35 million. The purpose of this program is to expand access to medication-assisted treatment for persons with an opioid use disorder seeking treatment. https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/awards/2017/TI-17-017
- Services Grant Program for Residential Treatment for Pregnant and Postpartum Women - \$49 million. The purpose of this program is to expand services for women and their children in residential substance abuse treatment facilities, among other services. https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/awards/2017/TI-17-007

The funding will be distributed to 58 recipients, including states, cities, healthcare providers and community organizations. The funds will be awarded for three to five years, subject to availability and depending on the program.

Earlier this year, HHS Secretary Price outlined five strategies to provide the Department with a comprehensive framework to combat the ongoing opioid crisis: improving access to prevention, treatment, and recovery services, including the full range of MAT; targeting the availability and distribution of overdose-reversing drugs; strengthening public health data and reporting; supporting cutting-edge research on pain and addiction; and advancing the practice of pain management.



These awards follow a separate award of \$485 million in grants in April 2017 – provided by the 21^{st} Century Cures Act – to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, four U.S. territories, and the free associated states of Palau and Micronesia by SAMHSA for opioid abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery.

###



 From:
 Lothrop, Julia (HHS/IEA)

 Sent:
 22 Oct 2017 01:04:29 +0000

 To:
 Teuscher, David (HHS/IEA)

Cc: Gooden, Shelby (HHS/IEA);Singleton, Ladonna (HHS/IEA);Moore, Veronica

(HHS/IEA); Peggy Samuels - 7A-FEB; Kelly Anderson

Subject: FW: Region 6 - Building Operations Services - October 18, 2017

Attachments: FOH-52 Client Screening Questionnaire and Acknowledgement Form for Inactivated Injectable Influenza Vaccination 2017-18.pdf, FOH-HS Health Summary Form.pdf, National

Prescription Drug Take Back Day Dallas Ft. Worth.pdf

Flu shot information is listed below.

From: Parnell, June (PSC/RLO/BOS) (CTR)
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2017 1:38 PM

To: Tulloch, Barbara G. (IHS/DES); Williams, Carla (HRSA); Jones, Carolyn J. (IHS/DES); Rambo, Carolyn A. (CMS/CQISCO); Cisneros, Oscar (OS/ASA/OCIO); Creswell, Patricia (PSC/RLO/BOS) (CTR); Lee, Derek B. (ACL); Brookins, Diane (ACF); Dito, Matt (PSC/FMP/CAS); Williams, Ernesta B. (CMS/CQISCO); White, Felicia A (OIG/OEI); Hoffman, Therese M (OIG/OI); Hayes-Mohl, Janice (PSC/FMP/CAS); Boyle, Jennifer (HHS/OGC); Lothrop, Julia (HHS/IEA); Harris, Keith D (OIG/OAS); Grooms, Kiran (HHS/OCR); Lightner, Louis (OS/ASPR/OEM); Loya, Pru (PSC/FOH/WHPS) (CTR); Alanis, Maribel (OS/ASA/OCIO/ITIO) (CTR); Crabtree, Melissa J (FDA/ORA); Moreno, Nichole (ACF); Samuels, Peggy (OS/IEA); Jeffery, Shandrea M (HHS/OASH); Gooden, Shelby (HHS/IEA); Jordan, Tara (HHS/OGC); Russell, Wendy (ACF); Williams, Demetra (ACF); Brice-Smith, Angela M. (CMS/CQISCO); Cato, Todd W (FDA/ORA); Cote, Mick (OS/ASPR/OEM); Dito, Matt (PSC/FMP/CAS); Hearod, Karen (SAMHSA); Jackson, Princess (HRSA); Bryant, Jamie (PSC/FOH/EHSS); Parnell, June (PSC/RLO/BOS) (CTR); Karim, Arif (PSC/FMP/CAS); Massoudi, Mehran (HHS/OASH); Nwigwe, Vaniecy (OS/OCR); Devine, Percy (ACL); Pope Jackson, LaKesha (ACF); Smith, Marisa (HHS/OCR); Turner, Mervin D. (HHS/OGC); Wellspring, Howard W. (IHS/DES); Wheeler, Trish M (OIG/OAS)

Cc: Rhodes, Lori (PSC/RLO/BOS); Unitas, Ann (PSC/RLO/BOS) (CTR); Cline, Bobbi Sue (PSC/RLO/MPS); Ambrose, Jerry (PSC/RLO/MPS) (CTR)

Subject: Region 6 - Building Operations Services - October 18, 2017



Good Afternoon,

Thank you for taking the time to review and share this information with your Staff. If there are any questions or subsequent needs regarding this information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (214) 767-3206/(202) 826-4784 or via email at june.parnell@psc.hhs.gov or Pat Creswell at (214) 767-3221 or via e-mail at patricia.creswell@psc.hhs.gov.

E-Recycling Event

MORE INFORMATION

Learn More

Like you, PSC is a federal agency.



We know the regulations. We shorten processes. We make it easier. Learn how



PSC is coordinating an e-recycling event for all federal electronic personal property that no longer has any commercial value (printers, fax machines, CPU's, etc.) Personal Property Managers have been asked to provide a list of recyclables and photos to the PSC office by no later **than Wednesday, October 18**th in order that PSC may coordinate the logistics for removal with the recycling provider. A firm date for actual removal from the building will be established once the logistics have been completed. Please contact the PSC office at 214-767-3221 with any questions.

FedStrive Online Guided Meditation - Imagery Meditation
 Imagery Meditation will be held on Friday, October 20th, 11:30
 am – 12 noon. Register here

For more information please contact fedstrivesupport@foh.hhs.gov or the Region 6 FedStrive Coordinator, Pru Loya, at pru.loya@foh.hhs.gov.

Young Street Yappers Recruitment Event

You are invited to join the Young Street Yappers Toastmasters Club in the atrium on **Tuesday, October 24**th from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm to learn more about this organization. Young Street Yappers Toastmasters Club provides a supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth. Please contact Tiffany Curtis, tiffany.curtis@cms.hhs.gov or Ericka Murray@hq.dhs.gov with any questions.

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

In response to the Presidential National Drug Initiative, The Dallas Ft. Worth Federal Executive Board in partnership with The Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration, The Department of Health and Human Services, The Federal Protective Service, and The General Services Administration, will host National Prescription Drug Take Back Day for federal employees on **Thursday**, **October 26th** from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm in the lobbies of both the Earle Cabell Federal Building at 1100 Commerce, Dallas, TX or the Fritz G. Lanham Federal Building at 819 Taylor Street, Fort Worth, TX.

The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse and medications.

you can streamline operations and drive efficiencies. For more information, visit www.psc.gov.

Contact Us

PSC Regional Support Team

Regional Account
Manager:
June Parnell
(214) 767-3206 Office
(b)(6) Mobile
June.Parnell@psc.hhs.g

Administrative
Assistant:
Patricia Creswell
(214) 767-3221
Patricia.Creswell@psc.h
hs.gov

Regional Program
Manager:
Ann Unitas
(571) 388-5688
Ann.Unitas@psc.hhs.go
V

Regional Coordinator: Lori Rhodes (202) 868-9184 Lori.Rhodes@psc.hhs.go V

Service Director: Sid Ohri (202) 868-9909 Sid.Ohri@psc.hhs.gov



Federal Officers from The Federal Protective Service and Health and Human Services will be onsite to monitor drop boxes. Prohibited items include needles and inhalers. Physicians *may not* bring medicines to the drop site for disposal. After the event, Officers will transport drop boxes to the Drug Enforcement Administration to be destroyed by burning.

Please see the attached flyer and take this opportunity to clean your medicine cabinets. Help us spread the word by telling a friend or colleague to visit drop boxes in the lobby and dispose of unused or expired medication.

For more information on the Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Agency Drug Prevention Programs, please click on the link. https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/

If you have any questions regarding the Federal Employee Drug Take Back Day, please contact The Federal Executive Board at 214-767-5373.

• Veteran's Day Commemoration

HHS and the Social Security Administration will be sponsoring a Veteran's Day Commemoration on **Thursday, November 2nd** at 10:00 a.m. in the 9th Floor meeting Annex at 1301 Young Street. Please save the date and plan to join us for this important celebration of veterans.

As a part of this special event, we would like to know the names of all HHS and Social Security employees who have served or who are currently serving in the Armed Forces, Reserves, National Guard or Public Health Service.

If you have not provided this to us in previous years, we would also like to know some BRIEF information about you.

- 1) When and where did you serve?
- 2) What honors, awards or decorations did you earn?
- 3) Are you willing to share a picture of yourself from when you were in the service?

Please provide this information to Julia Lothrop (Julia.Lothrop@acf.hhs.gov) by Friday, October 27th.

To all of our veterans, thank you for your service and commitment to our nation. We owe each of you our deepest gratitude.



Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday, November 5th



Daylight Savings Time ends at 2 am on **Sunday**, **November 5th**. Please remember to "fall back" and set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed Saturday night.

Flu Shots

Don't forget to get your flu shot. Flu shots are available on **Mondays**, **Wednesdays**, and **Fridays** between 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm. <u>Please be</u> sure and bring your PIV badge with you.

Please have the attached FOH-52 form filled out prior to arrival. This will assist in minimizing waits and assist FOH in providing quick and safe service. Anyone with incomplete forms will be asked to return to the waiting area to complete before the vaccine will be administered.

If you have not completed a new health summary in the last year, it is recommended that one be completed. The Health Summary Form is attached for your use.

Should you be unable to visit the clinic on the days/times specified, please contact the Health Clinic at 214-767-3286 and they will do their best to accommodate you.

June





U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Client Screening Questionnaire and Acknowledgement Form for Inactivated Injectable Influenza Vaccination

	lient's Name: Date of	Date of Birth:					
	Screening Questionnaire for Inactivated Injectable Influenza Vac		ioı	n			
; ;	Adults wanting to be vaccinated: The following questions will help any reason you should not receive injectable influenza vaccine to 'Yes" to any question, it does not necessarily mean you should not means additional questions must be asked by the attending clinician appropriateness for you to receive the vaccine. If a question is not clattending clinician for clarification.	day. If yo be vaco to verify	ou a cinat me	nswer ted. It edical			
		YE	S	NO	DON'T KNOW		
1.	Are you sick today?						
2.	Do you have an allergy to eggs or to any component of the vaccine	?					
3.	Have you ever had a serious reaction to influenza vaccine in the pa	st?	-				
4.	Have you ever had Guillain-Barre Syndrome?						
Clie	nt's Signature: Date	:					
-							



CLIENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM FOR 2017-18 INFLUENZA VACCINATION

The CDC recommends annual flu vaccination as the first and most important step in protecting against influenza virus. By getting vaccinated, you are not only protecting yourself, you are protecting your family, friends and co-workers. This season the influenza vaccine will protect against H1N1 virus strain. Since seasonal influenza activity usually lasts from October to May, immunization may continue from August to April. The information you provide to complete this form indicates you understand the benefits and the risks of receiving the influenza vaccine, as indicated in the CDC's Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) and are requesting to be vaccinated.

NOTE: There is no recommendation for <u>pregnant women or people with pre-existing medical conditions</u> to seek special permission or secure written consent from their doctor for influenza vaccination if they are vaccinated at a worksite clinic, pharmacy, or other location outside of their physician's office. For more information, visit: http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/qa/misconceptions.htm

Part 1: EMPLOYEE INFORMATION (Completed by client)							
NAME: I	Last		First		MI		
	Las	t 4 digits of Social Security # XXX-XX-		Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY):			
		Wo	rksite Addr	<u>ess</u>			
Stree	t						
City	У		State		Zip		
Agency	у			Work Phone #			
Work emai	il						
		Allergies (drug/food):					
Medications I am o		Medications I am curre	ntly taking:				
		Employee	Signature:				

PRIVACY ACT NOTICE

The information obtained in completing this form is used to assist Federal Occupational Health in managing its responsibilities under one or more interagency agreements with your employing agency. Collection and use of this information is consistent with provisions of 5 USC 552a, 5 USC 7901, and Public Law 103-356.

This information will become part of your official Employee Medical File (if you have one), and will be used only for official purposes as published annually in the Federal Register under OPM/GOVT-10 (the OPM system of records). Participation in the FOH Influenza vaccination campaign is **voluntary**.

PART 2: SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINE RECORD (Completed by clinician)

FOH Occup	oational Health	Center:	QUADRIVALENT INFLUENZA VIRUS VACCINE:				
所 のHZE8 81301 Young St., Ste 11 300Dcablang oX , 7 5cc029oh : 214-767- Dal8es , 所 ※ 7 g2de2 767-8354 Ph: 214-767-3286, Fax: 214-767-8354 Clinician's Name:			A/Singapore/GP1908 (H1N1) (an A/Michigan/45/2015 -like virus) A/Singapore/GP2050/2015 (H3N2) (an A/Hong Kong/4801/2014-like virus) B/Utah/9/2014 (a B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus) B/Hong Kong/259/2010 (a B/Brisbane/60/08-like virus)				
Clinician's Title:			Manufacturer:				
Clinician's Signature:			Expiration Date:				
Date:			Vaccine Lot #:		Dose:		
IM Injection site		Left Deltoid	CDC VIS Date:	8 / <i>1</i> 07/ <i>1</i> 2015			
(check one):		Right Deltoid	Date VIS Given:				
If we sain a mot six on		Contraindications					
If vaccine not given, provide reason why:		Client Refusal					
provide reason wily.		Other (specify)					



A comprehensive history is an important part of your medical record. Please complete this confidential questionnaire on your first visit as accurately as possible by placing a check mark (V) in the appropriate spaces and by printing/typing other information as requested.

DATE:		
1. IDENTIFICATION	Sex:	
LAST NAME FIRST NAME (no nickname) MIDDLE NAME	SURNAME (at birth)	
SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (9 DIGITS) DATE OF BIRTH	HOME E-MAIL ADDRESS	
AGENCY / DEPARTMENT BUILDING & ROOM	WORK E-MAIL ADDRESS	
WORK ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP	WORK PHONE NUMBER	
JOB TITLE SUPERVISOR	R SUPERVISOR'S PHONE NUMBER	
EMERGENCY CONTACT PERSON RELATIONSHIP	IIP EMERGENCY CONTACT'S PHONE NUMBER	
PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN'S NAME, ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP	PHYSICIAN'S (PCP) PHONE NUMBER	
HOME MAILING ADDRESS, CITY STATE AND ZIP	HOME PHONE NUMBER	
2. IMMUNIZATIONS (enter date received, if known) Have you received the Hepatitis B Vaccine? Yes No If "Yes" number of shots? 1 2 3 Year Completed	5. ALLERGIES ☐ Drugs (specify below) ☐ Pollen ☐ Food (specify belom ☐ Dust or Molds ☐ Animals ☐ Other (specify below)	
Tetanus (Td/TDaP) Hepatitis A vaccine: Influenza Varicella (chickenpox) Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Zoster (shingles) vaccine Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) vaccine: Pneumococcal 23 / PCV13: Smallpox vaccine: Anthrax vaccine: Yellow Fever vaccine Have you traveled outside the U.S. in the last 12 months? Yes No If "Yes" – where? 3. SOCIAL HISTORY Have you ever used tobacco? Yes No If you answered Yes: Current Past – Years since quitting? Type: Cigarettes Pipe Cigar Chewing tobacco How many per day? For how long? What is your average alcohol consumption in a week? Drinks (1 drink = 12 oz. beer, 5 oz. wine, 1.5 oz. liquor) How often do you drink alcohol? Weekdays Weekends Both What form of alcohol do you drink? Do you ever feel you need to cut down on your drinking? Yes No Do you ever feel anxious about your drinking? Yes No What is the earliest time of day you have a drink? 4. RELATIONSHIP HISTORY Have you ever been hit, kicked, punched or otherwise hurt by someone within the past year? Yes No	Heart murmur Ulcers Hepatitis Usual deficit Other medical / psychiatric disorders – Specify:	erides sladder sease
Is there a partner from a previous relationship who is making you feel unsafe/uncomfortable now? Yes No Client's Signature: Date:	Health Provider's Signature: Date:	

MEDICATION RECONCILIATION

A review of an all-inclusive, current list of medications you are taking is necessary to safely evaluate your health condition and/or provide medications and/or occupational health services to you. Please list all medications (prescription and non-prescription, over-the-counter, vitamin supplements and holistic remedies, etc.). Please provide the name, dosage, route, frequency and purpose for each item you take:

Medications (include over-the-counter, vitamins, prescriptions, minerals and herbal supplements)	Strength (each tablet, mg., capsule, international unit, etc.)	Dose (number of tabs, caps, etc.)	Route (by mouth, injection, patch, suppository, etc.)	Frequency (once daily, twice a day, monthly, bedtime, etc.)	Purpose (Why are you taking this?)	Start Date	Stop Date	Client's Initials	Date of Entry	Clinician Reviewer Initials
										1
I voluntarily authorize a physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, nurse or other health care provider or the designees as deemed necessary to perform reasonable and necessary medical examination, treatment, or services for the condition that has brought me to seek care in this occupational health clinic. I understand that if additional testing or invasive or interventional procedures are recommended and will be informed in this clinic, I will be asked to read and sign additional consent forms prior to the test or procedures. Client Signature: Date: Signature: Date: Dat										
Client's Name:					Date	of Birth: _				



Data of	Clinician	n: Initial one of the	se boxes.	Data of	Clinician: Initial one of these boxes.			
Date of Review	No Medication Change Added		Medication Deleted	Date of Review	No Change	Medication Added	Medication Deleted	

ANA	
OIL	EDCICHT
UV	FOH-HS Health Summary

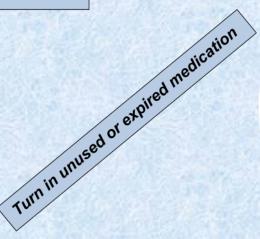
Client's Name:

Date of Birth:

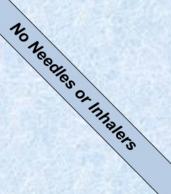


Drug Enforcement Administration









National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

For Federal Employees

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2017 11:00AM – 2:00PM

Two Drop Locations: Dallas and Ft. Worth

Earle Cabell Federal Building Lobby 1100 Commerce Street Dallas, Texas Fritz G. Lanham Federal Building Lobby 819 Taylor Street Ft. Worth, Texas

Sponsored by:

The Dallas Ft. Worth Federal Executive Board
The Federal Protective Service
The Department of Health and Human Services
The General Services Administration

Questions: Call DFW FEB Executive Director, Kelly Ann Anderson (214) 767-5373

HHS-OS EF Lit 18-0241-00001908

EXT-18-241-K-000023

From: Lothrop, Julia (HHS/IEA)

Sent: 1 Sep 2017 19:40:33 +0000

To: Teuscher, David (HHS/IEA)

Subject: FW: Telework Week Resources

Attachments: Good news for Telework.docx, Telework Agreement Final.docx, Telework FAQs all hands meeting.docx, Telework Policy Final.docx, Telework Training- Draft.pptx, Engine Poster.pdf,

New Header.JPG, Advantages of Telework.docx

Still looking for the two day doc.

From: Whitfield, Shoney (HHS/IEA)

Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2013 7:01 AM **To:** OS - IGA Regional Executive Officers **Subject:** FW: Telework Week Resources

Good Morning All-

Please see Telework information on attachments. Please call me if you have any questions.

Best Regards, Shoney Whitfield HHS/IEA 202-260-6348



Good news

In the first year since the Telework Enhancement Act of 2010 was signed, HHS has experienced a huge increase in the number of teleworkers throughout the Dept. HHS has achieved a 24% participation rate throughout the Department, surpassing the 2015 goal of having 20% of the staff participating in telework. This year we started off at about 11% participation in the telework program. Raising awareness and promoting the availability through the Departmental Telework Committee led to the dramatic increase in our numbers.

Our OPDIVs have been recognized throughout the Federal Government as having/implementing innovative techniques and approaches that facilitates a telework friendly environment. Manager education and effective administering of the program is the next steps for helping our workforce realize some of the benefits and overcome the challenges of Teleworking in HHS.

Piloting programs in FDA, NIH and CDC have led the way for other programs such as hoteling and office sharing to take off within the Agency. Taking advantage of this opportunity allows supervisors greater flexibilities in managing their workforce. These OPDIVs have identified some of the long term benefits of the program: cost savings, employee retention and recruitment.

The Department Sustainability committee is impressed with the programs progress and is looking forward to the future of teleworking. Telework is one of the biggest amongst the Go Green Initiatives. Through the initiative, we'll be able to realize cost savings from a transit subsidy, real estate and environmental standpoint.



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office Of The Secretary

TELEWORK AGREEMENT

This 7	ework Agreement between (OPDIV) and
	(Employee) describes the terms and conditions of
partic	ation in the Telework Program.
1.	Employee participation in the Telework program is voluntary and not a guaranteed right, and the employee will adhere to all applicable guidelines and policies.
2.	Employees participating in the Telework program may be required to work during inscheduled Telework instances, such as inclement weather, emergency building closures and/or when the Agency is operating under a Continuity of Operations plan COOP).
3.	During the hours the employee is on duty at the Alternate Duty Station (ADS), he/she must be accessible by telephone and e-mail at all times.
4.	Frequency (check one): Regular Episodic/Situational
	a. For Regular Telework: A regular Telework employee will report to the Official Duty Station (ODS) or ADS as indicated on the schedule below. The employee's compressed work schedule (if applicable) is also noted.

Week 1	ODS	ADS	AWS Day Off	Week 2	ODS	ADS	AWS Day Off
Monday				Monday			
Tuesday				Tuesday			
Wednesday				Wednesday			
Thursday				Thursday			
Friday				Friday			

- b. For Episodic/Situational Telework: Approval of this agreement by the OPDIV enables the Employee to participate in the Telework program. However, the Employee must obtain approval in advance from his or her management for each episodic Telework situation.
- 5. For employees who are on 100% telework, outside of the geographic location of their



	ODS (50 miles), their ADS will serve as their ODS.							
6.	The employee's ADS is located at: The telephone number, Blackberry number, cell phone number and/or fax number (as applicable) of the employee's approved ADS worksite are: The employee's government-furnished workstation ID (e.g., HHS123456) is:							
	HHS							
7.	The employee agrees to provide a work area adequate for the performance of official duties. This includes, but is not limited to, assuring that the home's electrical system is adequate for the use of Government-owned equipment, safeguarding Government-owned equipment and information from children and pets, and providing smoke detectors.							
8.	The requirements and procedures for the employee's time and attendance reporting at the ADS are the same as at the ODS. Requests to use leave or credit hours must be made in accordance with established office procedures and the applicable provisions of Department policies and Union agreements, including obtaining supervisory approval prior to using leave or credit hours.							
9.	Any overtime or compensatory time must be approved by the employee's supervisor in advance. By signing this Agreement, the employee understands that the OPDIV/Staff Division/Office will not compensate unapproved overtime work.							
10.	Participation in the Telework program can be suspended or terminated, as appropriate, for failure to comply with or meet the provisions of this Agreement, or for other good and sufficient reasons.							
I have	a valid virtual private network (VPN) account:	Yes	No					
I have	received Telework training:	Yes	No					
I have	completed annual information security training:	Yes	No					
I have	completed annual privacy awareness training:	Yes	No					
	by certify that I have read and understand this Agreements.	eement and agre	e to adhere to all					
Emplo	oyee's Signature:	Date:						



Recommendation:		Approve			Disapprove
Reason for recommending	ıg disapproval	(if applicable	e):		
				1/2 7/2 1	
Recommending Official:			_ Date:		
Final Determination:		Approve			Disapprove
Reason for Disapproval ((if applicable):				
	(ii appiieusie)i				
Approving Official:			Date:	:	



TELEWORKING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Q: What is the definition of telework?

A: The terms "telework," "telecommuting," "flexible workplace," "flexiplace," remote work," "virtual work," and "mobile work" are all used to refer to work done outside of the traditional on-site work environment. These terms are defined in different ways and used in different contexts to refer to anything from jobs that are completely virtual or mobile, to arrangements that enable employees to work from home a few days per week or per month.

OPM uses the term "telework" for reporting purposes and for all other activities related to policy and legislation. OPM defines telework as work arrangements in which an employee regularly performs officially assigned duties at home or other work sites geographically convenient to the residence of the employee. Telework is a change in geography or physical, but not in a change in the execution of the employee's duties and responsibilities.

Q: Am I eligible to telework?

A: Eligibility criteria are established by agencies in their policies. You can find your agency policy by contacting your agency telework coordinator.

You are likely to be eligible to telework if your job is partly or wholly portable, meaning that you can do work offsite without workflow or security concerns. In addition, your performance will be considered, as will other factors about your workgroup, including staffing, budget, and the need for office coverage. Also refer to your Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) to determine if specific requirements have been set.

Q: What can I do if my manager won't let me telework?

A: Agency telework policies establish the basic guidelines for telework eligibility and the application process. Within this framework, managers and supervisors generally have discretion to implement telework to fit the business and operational needs of their organizations. Remember that teleworking is a benefit and not an entitlement. You can work with your telework coordinator to fully understand the relevant policies and procedures. If you are eligible by the terms of the policy and have followed proper procedures, your telework coordinator can help you write a business-based proposal to submit to your manager.

Q: Is there telework training available for employees?

A: Yes. OPM provides web-based employee training modules and they are free of charge. Check with your agency telework coordinator to find out about any telework training your agency may offer, as well.

Q: Who is responsible for approving an employee's request to telework?

A: Each Federal agency sets up its own approval process, but generally the immediate supervisor must agree to a specific employee's request. Contact your telework coordinator for details about your own agency's process.



Q: If Federal offices are closed due to inclement weather or some other emergency, are teleworkers excused from work as well?

A: Not necessarily. As detailed in OPM's dismissal or closure procedures, teleworkers may still be required to work. Any such requirement should be spelled out in the telework agreement, and managers should take into account personal circumstances (for instance, school closures that may send dependent children home) in making these determinations.

Q: Can a manager deny a request to telework?

A: Managers can deny a request to telework, based on business reasons or the operational needs of the agency. For example, an employee's performance may not meet the agency telework policy's standards, their position may not be eligible, or the workgroup may not be staffed adequately to provide needed office coverage. The denial should be made in writing, with an explanation, and this written denial should be provided to the employee in a timely manner.

Q: Can telework help an employee with child or other dependent care needs?

A: Telework is not a substitute for dependent care. An employee who is teleworking cannot provide dependent care for a child or relative during the regularly scheduled tour of duty. However, telework can be very valuable to individuals with care giving responsibilities. Time saved commuting can be spent with family members, and the flexibility of being closer to home may enable caregivers to take less time off for activities like doctor's visits, school programs, etc. A teen-aged child or elderly relative might also be at home with the teleworker, after school or during the day, as long as they are independently pursuing their own activities in an area separate and apart from the designated teleworking site.

Q: Can Federal contractors telework?

A: Since the Federal telework program and policies cover only Federal employees, Federal contractors are not governed by OPM and GSA telework guidance or by individual agency policies, and are not counted in the annual Telework Report to Congress. However, this does not prohibit – and should not prevent – contract employees from actually teleworking, as appropriate.

Telework arrangements for contractors should be negotiated with both the contractor's own employer and with the appropriate Federal agency official, so policies and procedures are in close alignment and all concerned parties are in agreement. Telework language may even be integrated into the contract itself.

Q: Where do I submit my telework application?

A: The application process for a telework arrangement is completely determined by agency policy. Please contact your agency telework coordinator to discuss this process.

Q: Do I need a telework agreement before I can telework?

A: The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) strongly recommends that teleworkers have a written agreement in place. Contact your telework coordinator to find out whether or not this is a requirement for your agency, and if it is required, whether there is a specific form or format you should use.

Q: How do I know an employee is working when I can't see them?

A: Effective performance management is the same whether or not an employee teleworks. Managers should measure employee performance by results, not physical presence. See the Handbook for Measuring Employee Performance for guidelines for good performance management techniques.



Q: Do I have to manage a teleworker differently than my in-office staff?

A: Managers should not have to manage teleworkers' performance any differently then other employees'. However, telework may require some changes in communication techniques, and managers may need to be more mindful of the ways they assign and reward work to ensure they are equitable.

Q: Can teleworkers follow an alternative work schedule?

A: There is no government-wide restriction on teleworkers following alternative work schedules, and many teleworkers may in fact have more flexible schedules when they are teleworking than when they are in the office. However, individual agency policies may restrict the combination of telework and other flexibilities, so managers and employees should discuss this issue with their telework coordinator.

Q: Can a teleworker's schedule be different on their telework days?

A: There is no restriction on how much flexibility may be allowed to teleworkers. Since telework does eliminate commute time, it may make sense for the teleworker to begin their work day earlier then they would otherwise. However, the amount of flexibility will be determined first agency policy and the business needs of the organization.

Q: Can managers or supervisors telework?

A: There is no government-wide policy or guidance restricting managers from telework. As with any position, whether or not telework is feasible – and what kind of telework (how frequent, how regular, etc.) would work - is dependent on the business needs of the organization. Agency policies may also include some restrictions.

Q: Is there telework training available for managers?

A: Yes. OPM provides web-based manager training modules. Check with your agency telework coordinator to find out about any telework training your agency may offer, as well.

Q: If the manager denies an employee's telework request, can the employee appeal that decision?

A: Individual agencies may have a structured appeals process for telework applications (talk to your agency telework coordinator), but for the most part, an appeal would follow the normal agency procedures for appealing any management decision.

Q: Does an employee have a right to telework?

A: No. Teleworking is a benefit and not an entitlement. Subject to any applicable union agreement, management decides whether an employee can work off-site, depending on the nature of the position and the characteristics of the employee and the workgroup. In addition, management has the right to end an employee's telework arrangement if it is no longer viable for business-based reasons - for example, if the employee's performance declines or if the arrangement no longer meets the organization's needs.

Q: Can a supervisor cancel a day of telework for an employee?

A: Yes. A manager or supervisor may cancel or suspend a day or days of telework for an employee if this a business need or operational necessity for the employee to physically be in the office, i.e. training, critical meetings or briefings, etc.



Q: Does OPM provide employee and/or manager training that agencies can use?

A: Yes. OPM provides interactive, online telework training courses for both managers and employees, free of charge. After completing the training modules, users can print out a certificate to be used as documentation.

Q: Is the agency required to check the safety and security of a home-based telework office?

A: No, the agency is not required to visit the teleworker's home to inspect it for safety and ergonomics, although agency policy may establish that a manager or other official has the right to do so. Agency policies may include self-certify safety/security checklists that managers can use as a proxy for an onsite visit.

Q: Can an agency force an employee to work at home?

A: Generally, no, unless telework is a condition of employment or it is required to continue government operations in times of emergency. In these instances, an employee may be required to work at home, a telework center, or an alternative workplace.

Q: What equipment will the employee need at the home-based worksite and who will provide it?

A: Equipment and who will provide it will vary by situation. Many Federal agencies provide equipment (e.g., laptops, second phone lines, etc.) at home-based worksites. Each agency must establish its own policies on the provision and installation of equipment.

Q: Who is responsible for maintaining and servicing equipment used at the alternative worksite?

A: Generally, each Federal agency will be responsible for the service and maintenance of all government owned equipment. Teleworkers using their privately-owned equipment (when allowed by their agency) are responsible for service and maintenance.

Q: Are business phone calls from the home reimbursable?

A: Yes, a Federal employee may receive reimbursement for business-related long distance phone calls made on their personal phone. GSA regulations (41 CFR 101.7) provide for reimbursement of telephone calls approved by the supervisor. The employee should submit a standard form 1164 through appropriate channels to receive the reimbursement. Agencies may also provide employees with government telephone credit cards.

Q: Who is liable for work-related injuries and/or damages at the alternative worksite?

A: Government employees suffering work-related injuries and/or damages at the alternative worksite are covered under the Military Personnel and Civilian Employees Claims Act, the Federal Tort Claims Act, or the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (workers' compensation).

Q: What role do unions play?

A: Agencies are strongly encouraged to involve unions and other stakeholders in the development of their telework programs. Telework affects conditions of employment and agencies must consult and negotiate with unions, as appropriate, regarding telework programs.



Q: What is the official worksite for a teleworking employee?

A: The official worksite for a teleworking employee will vary depending on the employees' schedule. For those employees on 100% telework: the official worksite is the location of your telework site (the alternate duty station identified on your telework agreement form). For those employees "not" on 100% telework: the official duty station is your worksite. In order to maintain the official duty station as your official worksite for locality pay, the employee must physically report to that site two days per bi-weekly pay period.

Q: What is considered travel for 100% teleworkers?

A: Travel: 5 U.S.C. § 5702 has been interpreted to then say that in circumstances where the official worksite is reassigned to the telework location, trips to the main worksite are "official business" and the employee is entitled to travel reimbursement. If an employee is on 100% telework their official worksite must be reassigned to their telework location.



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Telework Program Policy

Table of Contents

- A. Background
- B. Purpose
- C. Coverage
- D. Delegations of Authority
- E. Labor Management Relations
- F. Definitions
- G. Eligibility Criteria for Program Participation and Termination
- H. Unscheduled Telework
- I. Telecenters
- J. Hoteling
- K. Telework Managing Officer
- L. OPDIV /STAFFDIV Responsibilities
- M. Employee Responsibilities
- N. Reporting
- O. Telework Agreement Form
- P. Effective Date

References

- 1. Public Law No.106-346, Section 359, dated October 23, 2000
- 2. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Memorandum dated February 9, 2001, Establishing Telecommuting Policies
- 3. Public Law No. 111-292, H.R. 1722, Telework Enhancement Act of 2010
- 4. Office of Personnel Management Memorandum dated December 13,2010
- 5. Office of Personnel Management 2011 Guide to Telework in the Federal Government
- Publication CA-810 Revised January 1999, Injury Compensation for Federal Employees, U.S. Department of Labor Employment Standards Administration, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs
- 7. Telework Agreement Form (Appendix I)
- 8. Telework Training Resources
- 9. HHS-OCIO Policy for Information Systems Security and Privacy Handbook, dated July 7, 2011¹
- 10. Homeland Security Presidential Directive-12, "Policies for a Common Identification Standard for Federal Employees and Contractors," dated August 27, 2004²
- 11. Office of Management and Budget Memorandum M-11-11, "Continued Implementation of Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 12– Policy for a Common Identification Standard for Federal Employees and Contractors," dated February 3, 2011³

http://intranet/it/cybersecurity/docs/policies guides/PISSP/pol for info sys sec and priv hndbk 20110707.pdf

³ Available at: http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/2011/m11-11.pdf



1

¹ Available at:

² Available at: http://www.dhs.gov/xabout/laws/gc 1217616624097.shtm

A. BACKGROUND

Advances in telecommunications, the rising cost of office space, air pollution, traffic congestion, employee interest in work/life balance and other factors have increased interest in Telework arrangements. Telework is a practical solution to these modem workplace challenges.

The Office of Personnel Management provides guidance and regulations that govern agency Telework programs. The earliest OPM guidance instructs Federal agencies to: Establish and/or review Telework policies to reduce and eliminate barriers inhibiting the use of Telework; establish eligibility criteria; allow employees, subject to any applicable agency policies or bargaining obligations, to Telework if they meet the criteria and want to participate; and, increase overall program participation.⁴

Ten years later, the Telework Enhancement Act of 2010⁵ was passed, which provides agencies greater flexibility in managing their workforce. The Act also "provides a framework for agencies to better leverage technology and to maximize the use of flexible work arrangements, which will aid in recruiting new Federal workers, retain valuable talent and allow the Federal government to maintain productivity in various situations -- including those involving national security and other emergency situations" according to OPM Director John Berry in a December 2010 memorandum.⁶ In the memorandum, OPM instructs agencies to: Establish a policy under which employees may be authorized to Telework to the maximum extent possible without diminishing employee performance or Agency operations; determine employee eligibility for Telework participation; and, notify employees of their eligibility to Telework.⁷

Application of this guidance should be consistent with the provisions of applicable bargaining obligations. Any implementing guidance developed by HHS Operating and Staff Divisions (OPDIVs/STAFFDIVs) must comply with this policy, as well as the law from which it is derived. This guidance supersedes all previous versions of policies and guidance pertaining to the requirements contained herein.

B. PURPOSE

This policy provides guidelines for carrying out the requirements of Section 359 of Public Laws 106-346 and 111-292, cited above. These guidelines apply to Telework programs in HHS and further establish a policy under which employees may be authorized to Telework. The Department actively promotes Telework as a legitimate flexibility for managers and employees throughout HHS. However, Telework is not a guaranteed right for all employees. Federal law requires agencies to establish Telework programs, but does not give individual employees a legal right to Telework. Employee participation in Telework is voluntary and must be approved on a case-by-case basis by supervisors.

⁷ Section 6501 of Public Law No. 111-292, as interpreted by OPM in a memorandum dated December 13, 2010



2

⁴ 1 Public Law No. 106-346, Section 359, dated October 23,2000 (Appendix 1), as interpreted by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in a memorandum dated February 9, 2001 (Appendix 2)

⁵ The Telework Enhancement Act of 2010 (Public Law No. 111-292) was passed on December 9, 2010

⁶ Section 6501 of Public Law No. 111-292, as interpreted by OPM in a memorandum dated December 13,2010

In addition, the purpose of this policy is to promote HHS as an employer of choice and enhance the Department's efforts to employ and accommodate people with disabilities. This includes employees who have temporary or continuing health problems, or who might otherwise have to retire on disability.

C. COVERAGE

This policy applies to all HHS employees except for the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps personnel. Commissioned Corps personnel should refer to HHS Commissioned Personnel Manual 23.5 Instruction 10 for guidance.

D. DELEGATIONS OF AUTHORITY

The authority to establish and maintain Telework programs is delegated to OPDIV/STAFFDIV Heads, who may re-delegate without restriction. We encourage delegation of approval authority for individual employee Telework arrangements to first-line supervisors, as they are usually in the best position to determine eligibility and monitor results. Employees covered by a collective bargaining agreement may be subject to additional procedures, which may supersede or supplement those described in this policy.

E. LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

Implementation of this guidance must be carried out in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, bargaining agreements and HHS policy.

F. DEFINITIONS

- 1) <u>Telework</u> (also referred to as "flexiplace," "work-at-home," "flexible workplace," and "telecommuting") Performing work at a place other than the employee's Official Duty Station (ODS) in accordance with the terms of an employee-employer agreement.
- 2) Official Duty Station (ODS) The current work location (city, town, state) where the employee regularly performs his/her duties. Telecommuting does not change the Official Duty Station unless an employee is on a 100% Telework agreement.
 - A Teleworker's ODS would remain unchanged as long as the employee returns to his/her office at least two work days per pay period on a regular and recurring basis. If the employee does not report to his/her ODS at least twice per pay period and is not on a short-term, temporary agreement of 6 months or less, the ODS must be changed to the location of the Alternate Duty Station (ADS). An individual's locality pay rate is then adjusted to his/her ADS location if it is different from his/her ODS pay rate. Supervisor must ensure the employee is aware of any impact to pay or benefits that may result from the change of duty station.
- 3) <u>Alternate Duty Station (ADS)</u> A specific area within an employee's residence, at a telecommuting center, or at another approved location other than the ODS.



- 4) Regular, Recurring or Scheduled Telework Teleworking on a regularly scheduled basis for a period of several months or longer. Reasons for initiating regular Telework agreements may include: enhancing mission accomplishment, improving service to clients, improving productivity, attracting and retaining high-quality employees in key occupations, reducing office space and associated costs, improving access to Federal employment for the disabled, assuring reasonable accommodation for disabled employees, and reducing commuting distance.
- 5) <u>Episodic Telework</u> Work performed at the ADS without a regular schedule. Some examples where ad hoc, situational or episodic Telework may be appropriate include: completing discrete portions of projects or work assignments, recovering from an injury or illness, during office renovation, and receiving reasonable accommodation. This list is not all-inclusive. All episodic situations must be approved by management in advance.
- 6) <u>Unscheduled Telework</u> A specific form of situational or ad hoc Telework where unique circumstances did not allow for advanced scheduling.
- 7) <u>Hoteling</u> Shared office space in an agency location designed for use on a drop-in basis by Teleworkers. The space is equipped with standard office technology including phone, computer (or docking station), fax machine, printer, copier, e-mail, Internet access, etc. Employees either reserve space in advance or drop in to use a work space as needed.
- 8) <u>Telecenter</u> A facility equipped with computers, printers, phones, fax and copy machines that is available for the use of Teleworkers.

G. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR PROGRAM PARTICIPATION AND TERMINATION

Participation in Telework programs is not an entitlement but should be based upon sound business and performance management principles. When developing Telework guidance, OPDIV/STAFFDIVS must establish a policy under which eligible employees may be authorized to Telework; determine eligibility criteria for program participation and termination; notify all employees of their eligibility to Telework; and require training for managers and employees prior to starting a Telework arrangement. The Agency Head has the right to excuse the training requirement for employees who were Teleworking under an agreement prior to December 10, 2010. It is recommended that OPDIVs/STAFFDIVs provide exempted employees (i.e., employees on a Telework agreement prior to December 10, 2010) with updated information related to the Act. All other employees must receive an initial, one-time training prior to beginning Telework.

In addition to Telework training, a written agreement between a manager and employee outlining the specific work arrangement is required. This agreement is mandatory regardless of the type of Telework (regular, episodic, etc.). A sample Telework Agreement Form in provided with this package.

OPDIV s/STAFFDIV s must establish the following eligibility criteria:



- 1) The employee's work (or the portion to be performed at the Alternate Duty Station) must be portable. Employees must be able to reasonably complete their assignments without visiting the Official Duty Station.
- 2) The supervisor must be able to evaluate the quantity and quality of the employee's work performed at the ADS.
- 3) The employee's most recent performance rating of record must be at the fully successful level or above.
- 4) The employee must not be on a performance improvement plan.
- 5) If at any time an employee's performance is not maintained at the fully successful level or better, the employee-employer Telework agreement must be terminated.
- 6) The employee's work schedule and work requirements must be included as determining factors in Telework participation eligibility.
- 7) The employee must not require face-to-face supervision in order to Telework.
- 8) The employee must not require frequent face-to-face interaction and collaboration with customers or peers on a daily basis for the portion of work that will be completed off site.
- 9) The employee must be in compliance with current Office of the Secretary Information Security policies and procedures, including Section 2.16, "Telework," of the HHS-OCIO Policy for Information Systems Security and Privacy Handbook, dated July 7, 20118, which requires employees to have and utilize a government-furnished workstation (i.e., laptop or desktop), provided by the OPDIV/STAFFDIV, and a valid virtual private network (VPN) account in order to perform work at the ADS. A personal digital assistant (PDA), such as a BlackBerry, is not an acceptable substitute for a government-furnished workstation. This requirement supersedes all other prior direction and arrangements.
- 10) The employee's absence from the ODS must not unduly interrupt office operations.
- 11) Individual employee participation will be decided by the supervisor on a case-by-case basis.
- 12) If an employee's request to participate in the Telework program is denied, management will provide written notice to the employee explaining the reasons for the denial.
- 13) If the employee has been officially disciplined for being absent without permission for more than 5 days in any calendar year, they may not be authorized to Telework.

http://intranet/it/cybersecurity/docs/policies guides/PISSP/pol for info sys sec and priv hndbk 20110707.pdf



5

⁸ Available at:

- 14) An employee may not be authorized to Telework if the employee has been officially disciplined for violations of subpart G of the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch. These are violations for viewing, downloading, or exchanging pornography, including child pornography, on a Federal Government computer or while performing official Federal Government duties.
- 15) An employee must have adequate dependent care arrangements while Teleworking.
- 16) Management reserves the right to inspect an ADS for suitability for Teleworking.
- 17) Supervisors can alter an employee's schedule under special circumstances (e.g. meetings, etc.). A new agreement is not required every time this happens, but the supervisor should inform the employee in writing. If the change will occur over a number of pay periods a new agreement should be entered into.

H. UNSCHEDULED TELEWORK

Unscheduled Telework is a new option for employees to Telework under certain dire circumstances. Unscheduled Telework may be approved during emergency situations, severe weather conditions, natural disasters, and other circumstances which prevent employees from commuting to their ODS. Unscheduled Telework provides the flexibility to help maintain the productivity of the Agency, while continuing to provide service to customers and ensuring the safety of employees.

To the broadest extent possible, Telework should be incorporated into emergency preparedness operations. Telework will be considered for situational, episodic events such as inclement weather and short term emergency situations involving national security, extended emergencies or other unique situations. For instances in which the Agency has advance notice of a potential, future episodic event, such as inclement weather, authorized Telework employees who have government-furnished laptops and who are scheduled to work on the day during which inclement weather is anticipated will be expected to take home their government-furnished laptop prior to the date on which inclement weather is anticipated. In conjunction with Washington, D.C. Area Dismissal and Closure Procedures and the Federal Executive Board (FEB), employees who wish to Telework during unscheduled leave, delayed arrival or Federal office closure, must do so with approval from their immediate supervisor or manager. A valid Telework agreement must be approved and on file for the employee. Exceptions may be made based on OPDIV/STAFFDIV policies. During an early departure authorization issued by OPM, a HHS official, or FEB, authorized Telework employees may depart prior to the scheduled early departure time. As long as employees make up the time later in the day from their ADS, they will not be charged annual leave.

When Federal offices are closed to the public, a Telework employee whose regularly scheduled Telework day occurs on the day of an emergency closure is still required to work or request leave (unless otherwise determined by OPDIV/STAFFDIV policy).

Telework and Emergency Employees



In an effort to continue providing customer service and meet mission responsibilities, the Telework Enhancement Act of 2010 requires agencies to integrate Telework into their Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP). Telework employees are expected to work on days that they are regularly scheduled to Telework when the Federal Government has announced unscheduled leave, unscheduled telework, delayed arrival, early departures, or Federal offices are closed to the public. Any requirement that a Telework employee continue to work if Federal offices are closed to the public (or during delayed arrivals and early dismissals) on a Telework day or ODS workday is subject to collective bargaining agreements.

I. TELECENTERS

OPDIVs/STAFFDIVs shall establish guidelines for using telecenters. A list of telecenters and their locations is available on OPM's website. Payment for use of these telecenters is at the discretion of the Agency.

J. HOTELING

Working with the HHS Office of Facilities Management and Policy, the Office of Information Resources Management, and Information Systems Security Officers, OPDIVs/STAFFDIVs may develop appropriate policy guidelines to incorporate hoteling. The policy should address issues related to reserving office space and managing equipment sharing.

K. TELEWORK MANAGING OFFICER

The Telework Enhancement Act requires each agency to designate a Telework Managing Officer (TMO). The TMO must be a senior official of the Department who has direct access to the head of the Department. The TMO will help the Department incorporate Telework into everyday business operations. The TMO is responsible for:

- 1) Policy development and implementation related to Department Telework programs.
- 2) Serving as an advisor for Department leadership, including the Chief Human Capital Officer (CHCO).
- 3) Serving as a resource for managers and employees on Telework.
- 4) Serving as the primary point of contact with OPM on Telework.

The TMO, who is designated within the Office of Human Resources, assumes the duty of gathering information on Telework from various internal sources and reporting findings to OPM. The TMO's duties extend beyond the operational day-to-day aspects of Telework, including policy development and advising management of the Department's entire Telework program. OPDIVs and STAFFDIVs are responsible for providing information and data to the TMO when requested.

L. OPDIV/STAFFDIV RESPONSIBILITIES



The following responsibilities are delegated to the OPDIV/STAFFDIV:

- The Department continues to be responsible for service and maintenance of governmentowned equipment. OPDIVs/STAFFDIVs must establish written guidance outlining what support, materials, and equipment the Organization may provide for Teleworkers; what the Organization will not provide; and what responsibilities are shared between Organization and Teleworker.
 - a. At a minimum, employees must use a government-furnished workstation (i.e., laptop or desktop) and VPN access to remotely connect to all government systems. A personal digital assistant (PDA) is not an acceptable substitute for a government-furnished workstation.
 - b. Telework requirements include reimbursement for business-related long distance phone calls over the employee's personal phone. These calls must be approved by the supervisor, as required by the General Services Administration (GSA) regulations.⁹
- 2) Using OPM and GSA guidelines, review and identify positions that lend themselves to Telework, as well as those that do not.
 - a. Approve and disapprove employee Telework participation requests and terminate program participation, when necessary, due to performance issues or other reasons as stated in the OPDIV/STAFFDIV Telework guidance. Reconsideration requests should be submitted in accordance with OPDIV/STAFFDIV policy and collective bargaining agreements.
- 3) Ensure training is provided to employees eligible to participate in Telework and all managers of Teleworkers. Training must include applicable portions of the Military Personnel and Civilian Employees Claims Act, the Federal Tort Claims Act, and the Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) for services performed at home. ¹⁰ Training is available through the HHS University Learning Management System (LMS). In addition, Telework training for managers and Telework training for employees is available on OPM's website. Telework training must be completed before an employee enters into a written agreement to Telework.
- 4) Maintain signed copies of Telework agreements (electronic or hard copy) and other records required for program evaluation and reporting, such as Telework participation rates, use of telecenters, etc.
- 5) Consult with the OPDIV /STAFFDIV Information System Security Officer to ensure:

⁹ Publication CA-810 Revised January 1999, Injury Compensation for Federal Employees, U.S. Department of Labor Employment Standards Administration, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs ¹⁰ 41 CFR 101.7



- a. Requirements of Section 2.16, "Telework," of the HHS-OCIO Policy for Information Systems Security and Privacy Handbook, dated July 7, 2011, are incorporated into Telework access briefings and training programs.
- b. HHS Chief Information Security Officer is promptly notified of computer security incidents (or suspected incidents) resulting from remote access.
- c. Security procedures for LAN access, and policies on computer equipment, maintenance and software for the ADS are included in the Telework agreement.
- 6) Evaluate employee performance for Teleworkers and non-Teleworkers using the same performance management program.
- 7) Ensure Teleworkers receive the same treatment and opportunities as non-Teleworkers (e.g., work assignments, awards and recognition, development opportunities, etc.)
- 8) Designate a Telework coordinator to serve as the point of contact for questions on the Telework guidance.
- 9) Review Telework agreements at regular intervals.

M. EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Participation The employee must request to participate in the Telework program. The
 employee may also request to end participation, without cause, at any time. All requests
 must be in writing.
- 2) <u>Mission Critical Designation</u> As part of an OPDIV/STAFFDIV's Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), Teleworkers may be designated as mission critical employees. In the event of the activation of a COOP, mission critical employees may be required to report to their official duty station.
- 3) <u>Notice to Employer</u> The employee will promptly inform the employer whenever problems arise that adversely affect his/her ability to perform work at the ADS.
- 4) Work Schedule The employee must be available upon reasonable notice (generally a day in advance, if feasible) to come to the ODS whenever the need arises for meetings, travel, training, etc.
- 5) Work Activities The employee will not engage in any non-governmental activities while in official duty status at the ADS. This includes child care, elder care or the conduct of personal business. Employees must abide by all of the same policies, rules, laws and regulations as employees who do not Telework.
- 6) <u>Leave</u> The employee will follow established leave policies at the ADS as though he/she were at the ODS.



- 7) <u>Telephone</u> The employee agrees to maintain a telephone line or cell phone during business hours where he/she is accessible at the ADS.
- 8) <u>Conduct</u> The Employee shall adhere to the Standards of Conduct for Executive Branch Employees and to supplemental standards, as issued, while working at the ADS. During the hours the employee is on duty at the ADS, he/she must be accessible by telephone and/or e-mail at all times.
- 9) Equipment Use The employee must ensure that all government-owned equipment is used only for authorized purposes. Additionally, the employee shall ensure that he or she uses a government-furnished workstation and a VPN account to access all government systems.
- 10) <u>Information Security Controls</u> All employees must adhere to current Office of the Secretary Information Security policies and procedures, including Section 2.16, "Telework," of the HHS-OCIO Policy for Information Systems Security and Privacy Handbook, dated July 7, 2011¹¹, when remotely connecting to the various HHS networks and systems. Every effort must be made to protect the data, networks and systems, whether working on-site or at an ADS.
- 11) Security The employee will follow standard security procedures when removing official records from the ODS. Unless agency Information Risk Management security officials certify that the system adequately protects records and that off-site use conforms to applicable laws or policies, classified or sensitive data must not be accessible from off-site locations.
- 12) <u>Safety</u> The employee will read, certify and sign such safety checklists as may be required by the OPDIV/STAFFDIV. Federal agencies and staff are responsible for the security of Federal Government property, information, and information systems. Telework does not change this responsibility. Teleworking employees are subject to the same Federal Employee's Compensation Act (FECA) coverage as non-Teleworking employees.
- 13) <u>Liability</u> The employee will be liable for damage to any government-supplied property, including equipment at the alternate work station, in the same way the employee is liable at the ODS. HHS will not be liable for damages to an employee's personal or real property during the course of performance of official duties or while HHS equipment is in use at the employee's residence, except to the extent HHS is held liable by the Federal Tort Claims Act, the Military Personnel and Civilian Employees Claims Act or the Federal Employees Compensation Act (workers' compensation).
- 14) <u>Costs</u> Generally, the government will be responsible for the service and maintenance of government-owned equipment. The employee is responsible for all operating costs, home

http://intranet/it/cybersecurity/docs/policies guides/PISSP/pol for info sys sec and priv hndbk 20110707.pdf



¹¹ Available at:

maintenance and any other incidental costs (e.g., utilities) associated with the use of the home for business purposes.

N. REPORTING

Each OPDIV shall maintain records related to the administration of their Telework program, which includes:

- 1) The total number of employees in each OPDIV /STAFFDIV participating in the program
- 2) The number and percentage of employees who are eligible to Telework
- 3) The number and percentage of eligible employees who Telework and the number of days per pay period
- 4) The method of gathering data
- 5) The reasons for positive or negative participation variation as it relates to overall Agency goals
- 6) An explanation of whether or not the OPDIV/STAFFDIV met goals; and if not, what actions are being taken to identify and eliminate barriers to maximizing Telework opportunities
- 7) An assessment of progress in reaching Telework participation rates and other goals relating to Telework, such as the impact of Telework on:
 - a. Emergency readiness
 - b. Energy use
 - c. Recruitment and retention
 - d. Performance productivity
 - e. Employee attitudes and opinions regarding Telework
- 8) Best practices in OPDIV/STAFFDIV Telework programs

O. TELEWORK AGREEMENT FORM

Telework Agreement form attached as Appendix 1.

P. EFFECTIVE DATE

This issuance is effective immediately.



Implementation of HHS'Enhanced Telework Program

OPDIV MANAGER TRAININGDAT



MAN SERVICE

Goals

To provide an overview of the Telework Program To provide an update on HHS strategic initiatives under the Act To provide an overview of Telework Program pursuant to the Consolidated Collective Bargaining Agreement To enhance and promote OPDIVS Telework Program





What is 'Telework?'

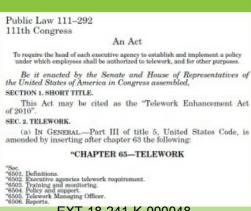
A work flexibility arrangement under which an employee performs the duties and responsibilities of such employee's position, and other authorized activities, from an approved worksite other than the location from which the employee would otherwise work.

-Telework Enhancement Act of 2010



The New Telework Law 2010

The Telework Enhancement Act of 2010 was signed into law on December 9, 2010. The Act is a key factor in the Federal Government's ability to achieve greater flexibility in managing its workforce through the use of telework. The law will help agencies recruit/retain top workers, and improve the ability for the Federal Government to maintain productivity during emergency situations.





Key Provisions of the Act

Each Federal agency must establish a Telework policy. Designation of a Telework Manager/Coordinator. Telework agreement completed and signed by manager and employee. Training for managers and employees. Reporting and monitoring of telework. Integration into Continuity of Operations.



Two Drivers





Two Types of Telework Arrangements

Regular/Recurring

 A flexible work place arrangement may be used when there is recurring opportunities to perform work at an alternate site.

Episodic/Ad Hoc

 A flexible work place arrangement may also be used on an occasional or episodic basis, for individual days or hours within a pay period or for a special assignment or project on a short-term basis



Regular/Recurring versus Episodic

Regular/Recurring

- The work does not require face-to-face interaction collaboration with customers or peers on a daily bas
- It does not require specialized equipment, systems reference materials unavailable except at the conventional office, and
- The employee's work habits are such that once an assignment is given it can be accomplished without further oversight or supervisory consultation.
- Tasks are repetitive and consistently occur consistently asks are short-term in duration

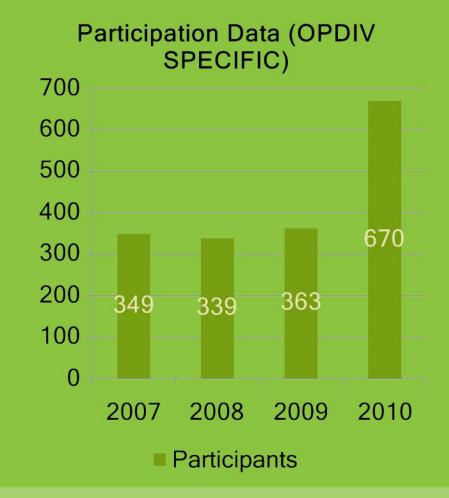
Episodic

- Work tasks may include data analysis, reviewing grants/cases, writing decisions or reports; telephone intensive tasks such as obtaining or collecting information, following up on participants in a study or setting up a conference; and some computer oriented tasks such as programming, data entry and word processing
 - Typically, such tasks require uninterrupted concentration and result in measurable work outputs or products and



Participation

Goal: 20% participation by 2015HHS
 Current Status: 25.1%





CBA's Eligibility Criteria Comparison

Old

- 3-Day maximum per week (denial of 3rd day was not grievable)
- 13-Criteria including exclusions of:
 - Probationary employee
 - Employees serving trial periods
 - Employees in entry level or trainee positions
 - Employees who had not worked in their current position, in the same program or functional area for at least six months
- 2-Day maximum during week of compressed work day

New

- No limit (Title 5 CFR 531.605)
- · 6-Criteria
 - Latest rating of record of "fully successful" or better;
 - Cannot be on a leave restriction;
 - Cannot be on a performance improvement plan (PIP);
 - Cannot have received a disciplinary or adverse action, which has a nexus to the integrity of the Telework program in the last six months;
- Demonstrated the ability to work, without direct supervision; and
- Employee doesn't require:
 - Daily and frequent us of the specialized equipment or technology [Grant Solutions];
 - · Daily and frequent face-to-face contact;
 - Daily and frequent access to confidential or sensitive data and/or information not attainable from an alternate duty site [original grant files];
 - Consider providing eligible employees with equipment; and
 - First-time requester must have held his/her position and had the same supervisor for three months, unless otherwise agreed.



Family Friendly

COOP Friendly

Reduces Cost for Transit Subsidies

Supports Go Green

Benefits of Telework

Reduces Space Footprint

Recruitment

Enhances Quality of Work life

Retention Tool

Increases Productivity



Challenges of Telework

Connectivity and equipmentTrustMeasurement of productivityPerception





Employee Responsibilities

Submit complete application to participate in the Telework Program. Application must include the following:Alternate work address, telephone number, and fax number, if applicableDescription of the work he/she expects to performDescription of equipment (i.e., computer, internet connection, telephone, etc.) and identify the electronic access (e.g., VPN) from alternate siteNOTE: Employees are responsible for operating costs.Seek advance supervisory approval to participate in the Telework ProgramEnsure accessibility to managers, co-workers and customers by telephone, email, voice mail or other communication mediaSeek advance supervisory approval to request Episodic Telework, except in emergency situations, i.e., designated by OPM or HHS



Employee Responsibilities

Safety: assuring that the home's electrical system is adequate for the use of Government-owned equipment, safeguarding Government-owned equipment and information from children and pets, and providing smoke detectors.



Management Responsibilities

Ensure employee's eligibility to participate in the Telework ProgramEnsure employee has submitted and completed the Telework Application. Ensure the application supports: Portable work and operational needs of the officeApplicable equipment (i.e., computer, internet connection, telephone, etc.) and access to systems to perform portable workIdentify legitimate business reason before denying telework arrangement; your designated Labor and Employee Relations Specialists are available to assist you



Management Responsibilities

☼ Participate! Lead by example, experience the good and bad, promote.Managers control the climate and culture of the office. Think of the non-verbal message.Targeting reductions in management costs related to employee turnover, absenteeism, reducing real estate and transit costs and minimizing the environmental impact.



Does an employee have a right to telework?

No. Teleworking is a benefit and not an entitlement. Subject to any applicable union agreement, management decides whether an employee can work off-site, depending on the nature of the position and the characteristics of the employee and the workgroup. In addition, management has the right to end an employee's telework arrangement if it is no longer viable for business-based reasons - for example, if the employee's performance declines or if the arrangement no longer meets the organization's needs.



Can a Manager Deny a Request to Telework?

Managers can deny a request to telework, based on business reasons or the operational needs of the agency. For example, an employee's performance may not meet the agency telework policy's standards, their position may not be eligible, or the office may not be staffed adequately to provide needed office coverage. The denial should be made in writing, with an explanation, and this written denial should be provided to the employee in a timely manner.



Quote

Using the analytical framework from our 2010 Best Places to Work rankings, we found that employees who have at least the choice to telework – whether or not they do so – are more satisfied than those who do not have that choice.

Partnership for Public Service



Summary

Win-win situation for employees and the agency.Improvement of workforce efficiency.Ensures emergency preparedness and promotes quality of life.Improves network security.NIH Telework Skit





Resources

Manager Training (thru the HHS Learning Portal)https://iam.hhs.gov/opensso/SimpleLogin.jspCollective Bargaining Agreement Flexiplace, article 26http://intranet.hhs.gov/administrative/cba/hhs-teu_cons_coll_barg_agreement.pdfHHS Telework Policyhttp://www.hhs.gov/asa/ohr/manual/files/990-1.pdfHR1722 (The Telework Enhancement Act of 2010) http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-111hr1722enr/pdf/BILLS-111hr1722enr.pdfOPM Frequently Asked Questions http://www.opm.gov/FAQs/topic/telework/index.aspx(Your Servicing HR Specialist)



Contacts

OPDIV SPECIFIC POC's: *******HHS Telework Coordinators:
Jason Love, (202) 690-8229 Donald Ashby, (202)
205-0300 Rebecca Hall, (202) 6035448TELEWORK@HHS.GOV









TELEWORK WEEK 8 2013

Advantages of Telework:

Jason Love Office of Human Resources

There are several advantages for both employers and employees participating in the Telework program. A reduction in operating costs, employee retention and continuity of operations in the event of a disaster are a few of the core reasons for embracing telework.

One of the main advantages of participating in the program is the ability to continue operations in a variety of circumstances where it was previously impossible. Severe weather, threats to national security and pandemic disease outbreak are a few examples. These are situations where telework can be used to facilitate the continuity of operations and ensure that essential work is being completed regardless of the situation. The more individuals you have on telework equals more resources available when working from the traditional office is not an option.

Cost savings to the employer (leased space, transit, reduce turnover) and employee (time, commute) is another major factor. Savings on real estate, employee relocation and additional overhead costs are reduced when employees are allowed to telework.

Telework is also a good recruitment tool used to attract more talent. Advertising our positions as "telework eligible" expands the talent pool which managers select candidates. In addition, it provides opportunities for disabled and under-employed individuals who may not be able to work in a traditional "office setting". Current employees that have been offered this flexibility have been surveyed as having an increase in job satisfaction. It also helps to retain those employees with historical knowledge and results in better productivity. Telework also allows employees to better balance their work and family obligations.

Telework supports our Departments "Go Green" initiative by reducing the number of commuters and reducing our overall environmental impact. Reducing traffic congestion along with potential energy savings the Agency would realize from on-site heating, cooling, lighting and maintenance are all measurable results.

Finally, telework clearly outlines performance measurement efforts by forcing managers to evaluate employees on their production and **what they do**, versus their attendance and **where they conduct their work**. Managing by results, setting clear expectations and providing feedback are some of the basics of performance management. Evaluating your teleworkers (and non-teleworkers) on these criteria is essential for success. If expectations are clearly defined, telework allows for an objective assessment on the employees product.

When managed correctly, telework is a win-win for managers, employees and the environment.



From: Yasser Zeid

 Sent:
 16 Sep 2017 15:39:46 +0000

 To:
 Teuscher, David (HHS/IEA)

Cc: Kim Nesvig; (b)(6)

Subject: Fwd: Follow-up on last week's meeting with SHRT

Dear Dr. Teuscher

Thank you so much for taking the time to listen to this sad story that if not resolved will affect the delivery of care to thousands of patients in north east Texas.

The forwarded email is from Mr. Kim Nesvig the Executive Director of Special Health Resources for Texas (SHRT), I copied him to this email as he may be able to answer any concern your staff might have.

Yours truly;

Yasser Zeid, MD
Medical Director
Women and Child of Longview a division of SHRT
(cell)

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kim Nesvig <knesvig@shrt.net>

Subject:FW: Follow-up on last week's meeting with SHRT

Date: September 13, 2017 at 4:45:49 PM CDT

To: 'Yasser Zeid' <yzeid@zeidwhc.com>

Here is my last correspondence with SAMHSA. Since this time, others including Carlton, Nan and Kyle Gilster, have had conversations with Deepa Avula. They felt there was some movement. Frankly, not nearly enough to satisfy me.

I think I have very accurately and fairly depicted the nature of the problem in the email below.

From: Kim Nesvig [mailto:knesvig@shrt.net]
Sent: Wednesday, August 16, 2017 9:26 AM

To: 'Kana.Enomoto@samhsa.hhs.gov' <Kana.Enomoto@samhsa.hhs.gov>
Cc: 'Deepa.Avula@samhsa.hhs.gov' <Deepa.Avula@samhsa.hhs.gov>; 'Gilster,
Kyle' <Kyle.Gilster@huschblackwell.com>; 'Nan Mitchell' <nmitchell@shrt.net>;

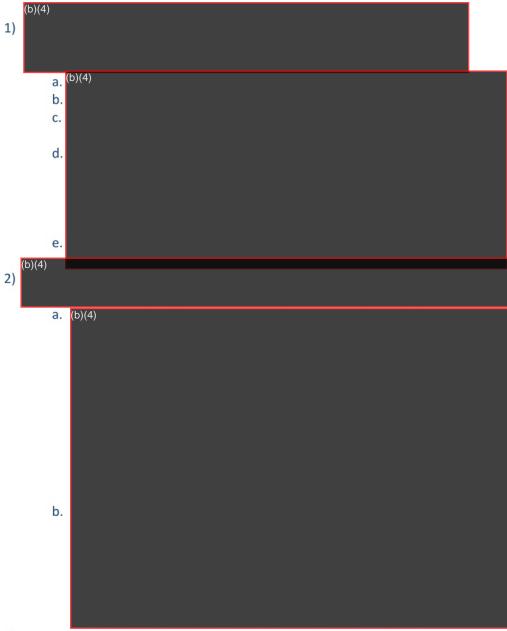
'csmith@shrt.net' <csmith@shrt.net>

Subject: RE: Follow-up on last week's meeting with SHRT



Dear Ms Enomoto;

I would respectfully like to point out three things that seem to be lost in months of discussion.



3) During last week's meeting, Deepa Avula participated for a few minutes at the beginning, the excused herself, and allowed the OFR staff to descend back into a redundant discourse on the disallowed costs. As in every communication with our fiscal office, OFR staff dismissed any suggestion that their requests were unreasonable, arbitrary or retroactive. As with telephone and in person communications with OFR, the meeting concluded with no substantive progress towards addressing our concerns or resolving the current impasse. It appeared from the perspective of our



staff, that Ms Avula remained committed to following the same, unproductive course of action that has led us to this point.

For the record, SHRT has continuously attempted to meet OFR's ill-defined and poorly communicated, and retroactively imposed "standards" for more than 20 months now. We have dealt with a changing cast of characters, a never fully communicated, rigid, arbitrary and at many times contradictory guidance from OFR, and over this 20 month period (b)(4)

WHILE continuing to meet and in fact exceed expectations of the grant programs we were responsible for. In the meantime, the rest of our organization has grown, prospered and served thousand more people in the region of NE Texas. We achieved exactly what SAMHSA avowedly wants, expanding primary care, behavioral health and substance abuse treatment and prevention activities, pioneering integration between primary care and behavioral health — both internally and with other community resources.

Also for the record, I would prefer to continue to offer and expand services through these SAMHSA grants. Yet, I find I have little recourse. (b)(4)

(b)(4)

20 months of experience leaves us with little confidence of that. And I cannot continue to permit SAMHSA activity to consume net revenues from our operations.

(b)(4)
(b)(4)
(b)(4)
This problem could have

been resolved long ago, and could still be resolved if OFR and SAMHSA would acknowledge two basic facts.

a. (b)(4)

b.

While I still hold some faint hope for some constructive resolution to this conflict, as a steward of SHRT's resources, I'm obligated to begin the unpleasant task of unwinding or long standing contractual association with SAMHSA.

Respectfuly,

Kim D. Nesvig, CEO Special Health Resources for Texas, Inc. (903) 212-7811



From: Gilster, Kyle [mailto:Kyle.Gilster@huschblackwell.com]

Sent: Wednesday, August 16, 2017 7:36 AM

To: Kim Nesvig < knesvig@shrt.net > < knesvig@shrt.net > **Subject:** Fwd: Follow-up on last week's meeting with SHRT

See email below from Kana.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Enomoto, Kana (SAMHSA/OA)" < Kana.Enomoto@samhsa.hhs.gov >

Date: August 16, 2017 at 7:47:14 AM EDT

To: "Gilster, Kyle" < Kyle.Gilster@huschblackwell.com >, "Avula, Deepa

(SAMHSA/OFR)" < Deepa.Avula@samhsa.hhs.gov>

Subject: Re: Follow-up on last week's meeting with SHRT

Dear Mr Gilster:

Thank you for the update. It seems we were not able to resolve SHRT's issues to Mr Nesvig's satisfaction. SAMHSA's Office of Financial Resources operates under standardized policies and procedures because it is charged with managing thousands of federal grants and billions of dollars in a consistent and accountable manner. I have asked Ms Avula to begin processing SHRT's grant termination today.

Sincerely, Kana Enomoto

On: 15 August 2017 14:28, "Gilster, Kyle" <Kyle.Gilster@huschblackwell.com> wrote:

Deepa and Kana,

Good afternoon. Kim Nesvig, the CEO of SHRT, asked me to email you the following update after the meeting of last week.

"Last week's meeting left all issues unresolved, and it appeared that no progress was made. I'm sure under the circumstances, we have no alternative but (b)(4)

work on grant awards. We simply can no longer afford to subsidize SAMHSA by receiving partial and delayed payments for services rendered

and terminating



This impasse can be resolved, but not within the rigid and uncompromising strictures demanded by the OFR. I am open to constructive solutions."

Happy to do a call to discuss further.

Kyle Gilster

Kyle J. Gilster Office Managing Partner

HUSCH BLACKWELL LLP 750 17th St., NW, Suite 900 Washington, D.C. 20006-4675 Direct: 202.378.2303

Fax: 202.378.2319

Kyle.Gilster@huschblackwell.com

huschblackwell.com View Bio | View VCard



From: ali.hochreiter@jandmrecoveryteam.org

Sent: 22 Sep 2017 13:45:03 -0500 **To:** Scyphers, Bryan (HHS/ASPR)

Cc: amit.patel@fema.dhs.gov;Ball, Harvey (ACF);Barnes, Joshua

(OS/ASPR/OEM); Chase, Jabal L.

(CMS/CQISCO);cindy.mcmurtrie@jandmrecoveryteam.org;cj@cjhuff.com;Forde, Kent (HRSA);Griffith, Reba (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH);Hastings, Elizabeth (OS/ASPR/OEM);Hearod, Karen (SAMHSA);Houlahan, Dan (ACF);IRCT2.ANF (HHS/ASPR);IRCT2.PLANS (HHS/ASPR);Luckhaupt, Sara E. (CDC/NIOSH/DSHEFS);Mahany, Mollie (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH);Malilay, Josephine (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH);Mangieri, William (OS/ASPR/OEM);mary.curry-ledbetter@j-mglobal.com;Massoudi, Mehran (HHS/OASH);mmoakley@michaeldbaker.com;OS EMGPLAN (HHS/ASPR);Owens, Dee (SAMHSA/CBHSQ);Reyes, Hernan (HRSA);Ritter, Troy (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH);Stevermer, Andrew (OS/ASPR/OEM);Taylor, Amyo (OS/ASPR/OEM);Teuscher, David (HHS/IEA);Weeks, Cole (HRSA);whamilton@apprioinc.com;Woolfolk, Jyl (OS/ASPR/OPP);Young, Patrick (ATSDR/DCHI/CB);Bowens, Michael (HRSA)

Subject: Harvey Recovery Issue Stoplight Tracker 9.22.17
Attachments: Recovery issue stoplight tracker - Harvey- 9-22-17.xlsx

Hi all,

Please review your pertinent sections and send me updates for tomorrow. Check your "stoplight" colors as well, and let me know what needs to be changed. Thanks!

Ali Hochreiter, MPH
Analyst- Social Services
Supporting Recovery Division
U.S. Dept. Health and Human Services
Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response
(m) 203.912.7030
Contract Support for HHS Recovery Division
ali.hochreiter@jandmrecoveryteam.org



Hurricane Harvey Stoplight Issue Tracker
Updated On: 9/120/17
Core Mission Area/Issue Area
Public Health
Disease surveillance issues
Epidemiological assessments of flood water exposure
Mortality/Injuries
Public health messaging issues/risks



Persistent public health risk questions	
Provide technical assistance regarding site-specific	
hazards and their implications related to recovery	
Health Care Services Impacts	
Hospital Rebuilding Issues	
, respiral resultantly results	



Hospital Utilities Issues
Hospital Functionality Issues
Rural Health Clinics
Health Care Access for Vulnerable Populations
Blood Banks
Clinics
Dialysis Centers/Treatment
Nursing Homes/Assisted Living Facilities



Home and Community-based Services (non-facility based)
Intermediate Care
Pharmacies/Prescription Access
Pharmacy Restoration
Mobile/Urgent Clinics
Behavioral Health Impacts
Disaster-caused service access deficits
Impacts to practitioner/behavioral health support network



Domestic violience issues
Substance Abuse Treatment/Access
Stress management issues
Known incidents of suicide
Crisis Counseling Program Methadone/Opioid Clinics
Environmental Health Impacts
Potable Water Quality
Private well issues
Debris Contamination Issues
Air quality Issues
Mold and related issues
Vector control



Wastewater
Water Systems
Chemical Pollutants
Food Safety and Regulated Medical Products
Overall food safety
Issues for regulated biologics facilities
Issues for medical device manufacturers and supply chain
Issues for facilities producing medicines
Issues for human food establishments
Food safety of meat, poultry, and processed egg products
Vaccines



Long-term Health Issues Specific to Responders
Health and safety concerns for professional responders
Health and safety concerns for volunteers
Responder monitoring issues
Responder behavioral health care issues
Social Services Impacts
Assess disaster-related structural, functional and operational impacts to social services facilities
Assess disaster-related impacts to at-risk individuals



Issues associated with temporary housing Referral to Social Services/Disaster Case Disaster case management issues Known unment needs from disaster case management Issues integrating family case work into VOAD/philanthropic networks Social Services Impacts Deficiencies in access to disaster case management Children and Youth in Disasters Facilitate technical assistance, programs, and activities to support children and youth who are displaced as a result of the disaster including access to school and access to healthy meal services Identify behavioral health needs of children, youth, expectant and nursing mothers and provide age-Center-based Child Care Issues Impact to foster care network Head Start Status Unaccompanied alien children issues Displaced children homelessness (disaster-casued)



School status
Students displaced
Child Nutrition
Child transportation issues (to/from school, child care)
I



From: Ford-Barnes, Arwenthia (HHS/ASPR/IO) on behalf of Gabriel, Edward

(OS/ASPR/IO)

Sent: 13 Oct 2017 00:52:36 +0000

To: Recovery Task Force - 2017 Harvey; Andrews, Sean

(OS/ASPR/IO); Hadzibegovic, Diana (OS/ASPR/OEM); Mason, Byron (OS/ASPR/OEM); Pavetto, Carl (FDA/OC);Barnes, Joshua (OS/ASPR/OEM);Fantinato, Jessica (OS/ASPR/OEM);Bratcher-Bowman, Nikki (HHS/IEA);Jones, Wanda K. (DHHS/OS/OASH);Pilato, Anna (ACF);Hastings, Elizabeth (OS/ASPR/OEM); Gettinger, Andrew (OS/ONC); Sherman, Susan (HHS/OGC); Woolfolk, Jyl (OS/ASPR/OPP);Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E];Ford-Barnes, Arwenthia (HHS/ASPR/IO);Finne, Kristen (OS/ASPR/OPP); Johnson, Kelly J. (OS/ASPR/OPP) (CTR); Robertson, Lance (ACL); Oidtman, Jessica (OS/ASPR/OPP); Ponton, Wendy (HRSA); Cordova, Jon (OS/ASA); Herron, Anne (SAMHSA/OPPI):Delarosa, Mary (OS/ASPR/OPP):Nicholls, Richard (ACL):Robinson, Vicki L (OIG/IO);Lennon, Todd (HRSA);Nevel, Amy (HHS/ASPE);Burney, Tabinda (OS/ASPR/OEM); Herrmann, Jack (HHS/ASPR/OPP); Redd, Stephen (CDC/OPHPR/OD); Levine, Cheryl (OS/ASPR/OPP); Nelson, Rachel (OS/ONC); Leary, Adam (OS/ASPR/OEM); Chase, Jabal L. (CMS/CQISCO);Max Hamel;Teuscher, David (HHS/IEA);Ray Gorrie, Jennifer (HHS/OGC);Davis, Ruth M (OIG/IO); Garza, Roberto (ACF); Bowens, Michael (HRSA); Tabak, Lawrence (NIH/OD) [E];Meeks, Kevin (IHS/OKC/AO);Gentile, John (HHS/ASFR);Arnold, Sharon (AHRQ/IOD);Clark, Barbara (HHS/ASL); Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E]; Yeskey, Kevin (OS/ASPR/IO) (CTR); Miller, Caitlyn (OS/ASFR);Cosgrove, Sandra (OS/ASPR/OEM)

Cc: Maddry, Lisa (OS/ASPR/OEM); Fischer, Rachel (OS/ASPR/OEM) (CTR); Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR); EMG Recovery (OS/ASPR); Kemper, Laura (HHS/ASL); Roach-Seymour, Sonia (OS/ASPR/OEM) (CTR); Ciambruschini, Karen (HRSA); Colf, Leremy (HHS/ASPR/OPP); Massoudi, Mehran (HHS/OASH); Griffith, Brian (OS/ASPR/OEM); Mackay, Thomas (OS/ASPR/OEM); Cederberg, Christina (OS/ASPR/OEM); Ball, Harvey (ACF); RICE, ROBIN L. (CMS/CQISCO)

Subject: Harvey Recovery Task Force

Attachments: HHS Recovery Lead TF Agenda_20171013.pdf, HSS RSF Quad Chart Reports Harvey 10.10.17 - Texas_Final.xlsx, HSS RSF Quad Chart Reports - Irma 101017.xlsx, Recovery issue stoplight tracker - Harvey- 10-11-17 MM.XLSX

Good evening October 12, 2017 at 8:51pm - Material attached



Placeholder for the 2017 Harvey Recovery Task Force Weekly Meetings. Meeting materials will be sent around no later than the Wednesday COB prior to the meeting. Please contact Joshua Barnes (joshua.barnes@hhs.gov) with any questions or concerns.

To participate in the WebEx:

WebEx Link

×

• ASPR users: use Internet Explorer. If you are properly logged in to WebEx Assistant, you will be redirected immediately. If not, enter in your name and email address (do NOT change the "Meeting Password"), and click "Join". If prompted for a user name and password, it is your HHS email address and ITIO password.



- **Non-ASPR Users:** Enter in your name and email address (do NOT change the "Meeting Password"), click "Join". If prompted, click "Run a temporary application" and follow the prompts (you will not need admin privileges to run this software).
- Click on the "Audio Connection" button.
- Follow the instructions for your preferred audio connection method (if you have not tested your computer audio prior to the meeting, please call in via the listed teleconference line).

Audio Only Users:

Conference Line: 202-774-2300

Pin: (b)(6)





DATE: Friday, October 13, 2017

TIME: 10:00-11:00AM

LOCATION: ASPR Main Conference Room HHH, Suite 638G

CONFERENCE LINE: 202-774-2300

PIN: (b)(6)

Harvey Recovery Leadership Task Force - Weekly Senior Leader Meeting

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

- 1. Quad Charts (Harvey-TX and Irma-FL)
- 2. HHS Recovery Issue Stoplight Tracker TX
- 3. HSS RSF Meeting Summary

AGENDA:

- I. Introduction Edward J. Gabriel / Jessica Fantinato Welcome, Summary of the Last Meeting
- II. Roll Call HHS OPDIVS and STAFFDIVS
- III. Operational Updates from ASPR / Recovery Joshua Barnes
 Review of current recovery activities
- IV. Operational Update from the Field CDR Betty Hastings / Byron Mason
- V. Round Robin
- VI. Next Steps

Next meeting scheduled: October 20, 2017, 10-11AM, Room 638G



saturness for	u tou tr	18/1	es established	The part of the pa	A DESTRUCTION OF THE PROPERTY	THE STREET AND PARTY OF THE PARTY OF T	10.	W	No.	80	-	51	Partie Scharrenger School Physics, 10,479, School Report College School Report College School Report College School Report College School Report College School Report College School Report School Report Sch	Million and the second second	TOTAL PLANTAGE THE CHARGE STREET AND ADDRESS OF THE
				The state of the s	And consider the late of the page of the first control of the late	What allow report and the state of the deposit of the									
					A report project of contractation in Signature. And the contractation is seen to the contractation of the contract										
-		Marine San	to the same of the	Life Age of the other trapes of the age of the Name of the State of th	Maria Streets observed and color or attended before the observed and observed and of the output of the order of the observed and output of the output of t	-	wa.	10		-	_				
				And of the second section of the second section of the second second second section is a second seco	PRODUCT AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY OF T										
				According to the control of the cont											
				COLUMN COLUMN ACTION OF THE PARTY OF T											
				All the products of the control of t											
	Amount			- Traditional description and physics		_	_	-							
				and controlling may are of self-risk, the new physical coloring in the controlling of the	Name and Address of the State o										
				 The Shall describe a series of the Shall describe	Modes I report region 18 - Comprise the Com										
				The project of t	To part house, it will be considered as the constraint of the cons										
				The control of participation or compared to the control of th	A Committee of the Comm										
					THE CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF										
					PARTITION OF THE PARTITION OF T										
spinora ac		Military ballati		Misser which, contribute had a second contribute of a state of the con-	Confidence Assemble pill formittendende brongen blade anneret de Laboration autoritation formation printere de *Autoritation de laboration	tion of the party			other black of the sector has been able to be a because of the sector and the sector of the sec	of Body on the Control of the Contro	_		STANDARD TO BEEN SHOWN THE PERSON OF T	A Transition Section Conference on the Conference of the Conferenc	an annual translation of the state of the st
address of the	190 00	SINT STATE OF THE	ny notice pr		The Print of the Print of the Print of the Control of the Print of the	40	- May happed - Amagest to a page of the property of the page of th				Management of place of the called				40
					- No. 1 - Inches Supposes to the material last electronic electronic last control of the control of the control		The second secon			Section Section Section 1		Miller in committee health	Paragraph of the control of the cont		
				The first three deposits on the second section of the section of the second section of the section of the second section of the second section of the section of	Contract of the desired and contract to the contract of the co		- martin construction of the construction of t								
				The transport of the same of t											
-			We had to	No. 100 (Stringer) All \$40 (M Stringer) have perfectly being the model, records from the Stringer (Stringer) and	And introduce phase companies and regions. The phase companies are the phase companies and a phase of the companies and the phase companies and a phase companies. The phase companies are the phase companies and a phase companies and a phase companies.	THE R. LEWIS CO., LANSING, M.									
				* Marchaeller, hander and Merchaeller and Administration of the Control of the Co	CARROLL CONTROL AND A PARTY AND A STATE OF THE STATE OF T										
				PARAMETER I AND SOLVE THE APPLICATION OF THE PARAMETER IN											
				The first temperature of the first temperature											
				What is not have been a second or the second of the second											
10,007/6 444	a bee 160	-	tera (torollar	HERE THE COURSE AND ADDRESS OF THE COURSE	Additional section of the control of	Acquisite and acquisite acquisite and acquisite and acquisite acquis	**	49	**	400	-	**	**	49	aps
				District Control of the State	A Special St. Physician Inches has been been been a supplied to the supplied by the supplied b										
				NAME AND POST OF THE PARTY OF T	THE RESIDENCE OF THE CONTRACTOR WHITE STATE AND A STATE OF THE STATE O										
					of any desirable or desirable or desirable of the sufficient and the s										
				Secretarion de la companya del companya de la companya del companya de la companya del la companya de la compan											
	22														
	- 1														
1000000 000	- 8	Name .	no de heale	en beforeste El Francisco como boro algorista de la como		MANAGEMENT COLOR	Testing traped criticals	Saltings report of the No.	Militagia saparatherias	Selection of the Control of the Cont	Sifting to special florida	May aporton	May aportion	Militagia sapriettorias	MANAGEMENT TO CO.
SECTION AND	- 8		Pio alto for allo	per Luf spirit for \$2 \$10 Simulation in the particle of the market day of th	Les I d'administration de la color de la c	SANGER SPECIFIC CO.	Saliting Enquiril or Science	Suffrage: regal of the Note	Malaja sandraras	SPA, SUCKES CO.	Billing to sport of the little	Military agent for the	Million apportunity	Million agricultura	Billion (China)
10,000 00	- 8			4. Figit & St. Et valor have have approximated at \$1 En valor have approximated at \$1 \text{ En valor have approxima	Lives III a common and published and a common to the segment to common and the segment to common		William colorina	National and a final state of the state of t	Military specificacy	Sifting in special regions	Birthy is spirit from the American State of		Militagia i apprilationi sa	Military report for the	SAN
Marina de	- 8		Pris utili facilità	the second secon	Lives III a film under right of a side of the right of any and the paper in the control of the right of the control of the con	A chiese constitutes and a chiese chi	Willing traped of the late	National and a fine	Militari aparatira	Biffigur special facility	Suffrage to security from the A An artifaction of the analysis of the analysi	Majo sporthers	Militario reprioritorito	Military contributes	Material Control of the Control of t
Marine de	- 8		Fin administration of the state	See		Antana perentuata Paparasa Santa dalah perentuata dan perentuata d	Saling Associations	Nillings and 450 life	Million specificities	Birthay in agent of the City	Service in secritorio de la compansa del la compansa de la compansa del la compansa de la compan	Adapt specificate	Biligh sporthors		Majora (Phila)
	- 8			Service St. Co. St. Co	The second secon	Andrea accomments Pripares Accomments of the comment of the comm	uning hand differen	Willy near A to Sec.	May works	Single sprice for the	Survey is necessively a second of a second		Adique equierboras	Mary control	Majapanahas Ma
10.000 m	- 8		and the same and t	Life and A. El El Common common and an información de la designación de la common common and anticología de la common and anticología de la common anticología del common anticología de	A CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY O		Wind state of the last	way-say da la-	Managa agarantanan Mar	Sifting in special field of the special field of th	Balting de specialistica de la constantina del constantina del constantina de la constantina del const	May aporters	Maga apartera	Mary specificals	Majoraninis m
	- 8		# # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # #	Comment of the c		Antonio acceptante Antonio An	Mark trade of the last	Strappings 64 kilo.	Shan agrahus Na		Balancia con included a construction of a constr		Maga apartera	Managa agus ann ann ann ann ann ann ann ann ann an	
	- 8				And in the control of	Administration of the Control of the Con	Wind hand of his land	Margan and Ash dis	Man appropria	May is sprinted in	School and	Maganganahara	Maga aparticus	Mary approximate	The second secon
	- 8		en distribution		The second secon	Sample and Comment of	Militarios chiano	Suppress 21 to to	Man manners		Company of the Compan	Magan againstone		100 minutes	-
	- 8			The second secon			With the first	50,0 (a) (1) (b)	\$100 (Adjust considerate Appears A	Manga ngalankura	No.	Enter Appropries	-
	- 8			The second secon			MA NO COM	STATE OF THE STATE	\$20 A STATE OF THE		Series and control of the control of	Eliapi apinhisa	Single approfessor	\$2 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55	
	- 8			And the second s	Seption to Approximate the Control of the Control o	-	-	The second secon	To the second se	Single barrier bridge.	SETA, A DE VINCALA DE LA CALLANDA DE	May reprinted	Sagir agranus	Table Services	5
	- 8			And the second s	Seption to Approximate the Control of the Control o	-	-				Anna a servicia	Man sentimos	Sanja spiralisa		
	- 8			And the second s	Seption to Approximate the Control of the Control o	-	-				Andrews Control of the Control of th	ESCALARIZATION STATEMENT OF THE STATEMEN	Manifestation of the state of t		
	- 8			And the second s	Seption to Approximate the Control of the Control o	-	-				Andrews Control of the Con				
	- 8			And the second s	Seption to Approximate the Control of the Control o	-	-		The second secon		Topics of the second seco		STATE AND ADDRESS OF THE STATE ADDRESS OF THE STATE AND ADDRESS OF THE STATE ADDRESS OF THE STATE AND ADDRESS OF THE STATE ADDRESS OF THE STATE ADDRESS OF THE STATE ADDRESS OF THE STATE AND ADDRES	Name of the Control o	
	- 8			And the second s	Seption to Approximate the Control of the Control o	-	-		Table 1 (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (
	- 8			And the second s	Septime to Approximate the Control of the Control o	-	-		The second secon			**************************************			
	- 8			Constitution of the consti	Section 2 and the section of the sec			The second secon			The second seco	**************************************	**************************************		
	- 8			Constitution of the consti	Section 2 and the section of the sec						The second secon		-		
MARION IN	- 8			Constitution of the consti	Section 2 and the section of the sec									Man and a second a	
	- 8			Constitution of the consti	Section 2 and the section of the sec										
	- 8			Constitution of the consti	Section 2 and the section of the sec								50		
Tables of the state of the stat	- 8			Constitution of the consti	Section 2 and the section of the sec			Section 20 May 10 May 1							
Marine of the second of the se	- 8			Constitution of the consti	Section 2 and the section of the sec										
Alberta de la companya de la company	- 8			Constitution of the consti	Section 2 and the section of the sec										
Marine of States and States of State				Constitution of the consti	Section 2 and the section of the sec			os 							
Marine to	- 8			And the second s	Section 2 and the section of the sec			**************************************							
Marine to				Constitution of the consti	Section 2 and the section of the sec			**************************************							
Marine of States and States of State				The second secon				**************************************							
Marine of States and States of State				The second secon				**************************************							
Marine of States and States of State				The second secon				**************************************							
Marine of States and States of State				The second secon				**************************************						Name of the control o	
Marine of States and States of State				The second secon				**************************************							
Marine of States and States of State				The second secon				**************************************							
Marine of States				Comment of the commen				**************************************							
Marine of States				Comment of the commen				**************************************							
Marine of States and States of State				The second secon				**************************************						Name of the control o	











_	 										







_	 										



_	 										







































_	 										







|
 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |



_	 	 		 		 			







 			 			-					

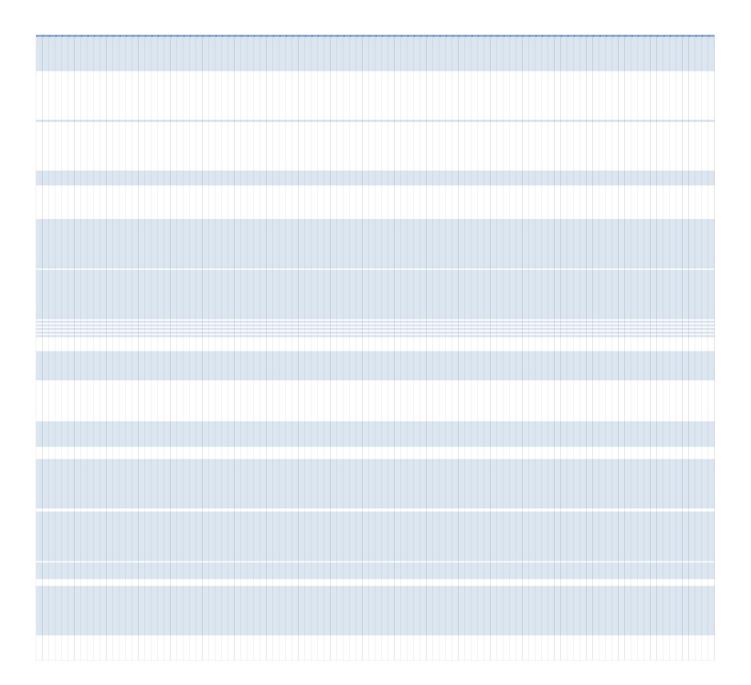










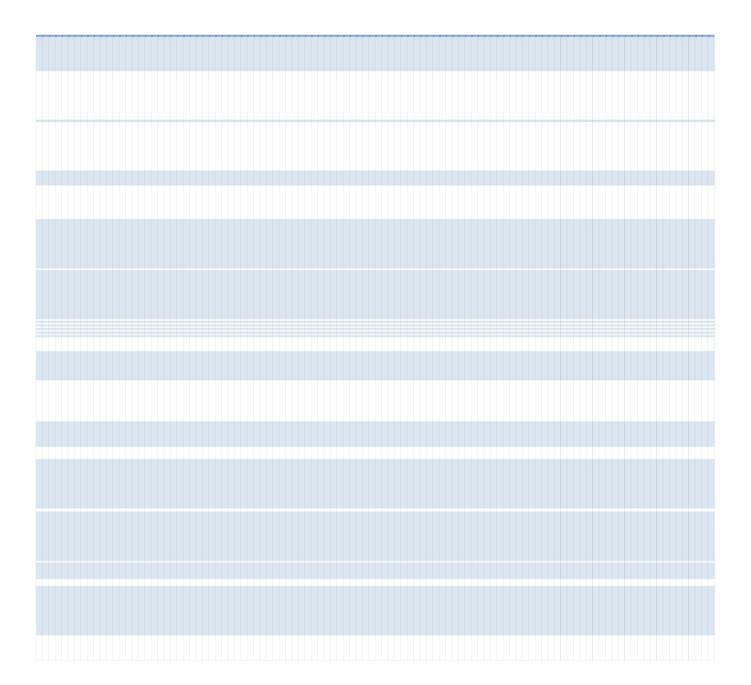
































					Ш		Н		П			Н		













_	 										











_	 		 		 							















														Ī







*******		************	























_	 												

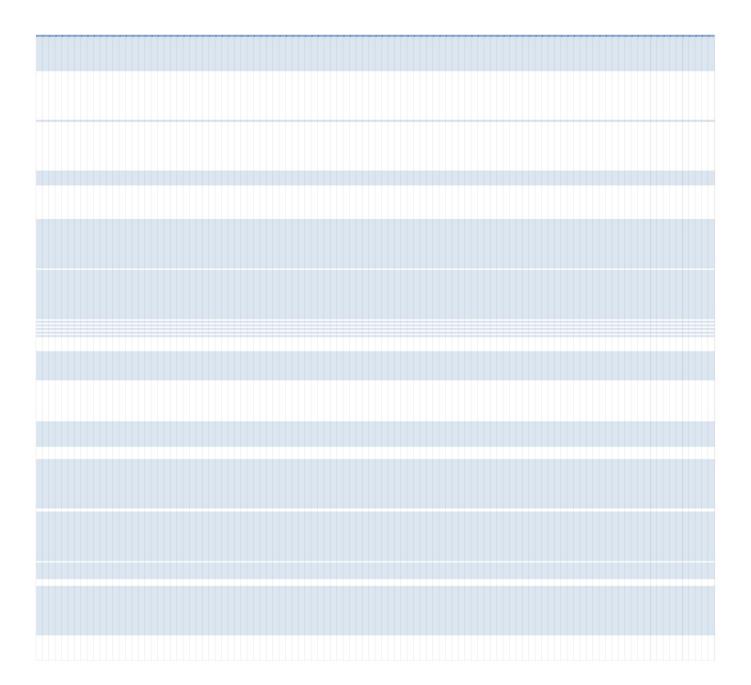








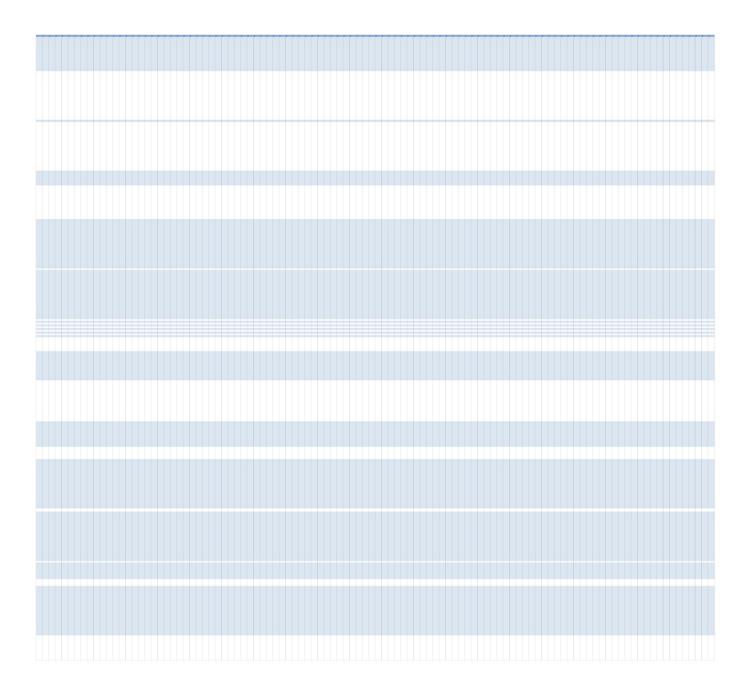














































_	 											





_	 											



_	 												







_	 										



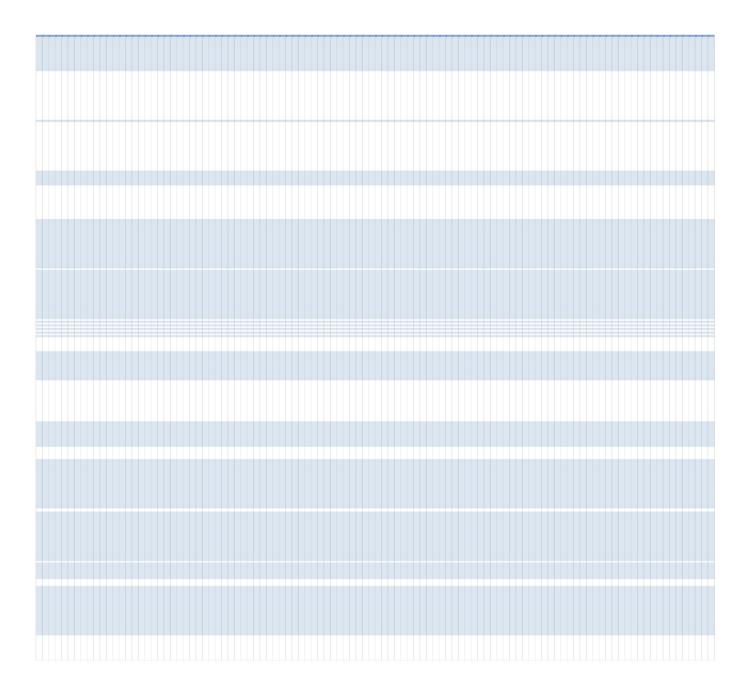


















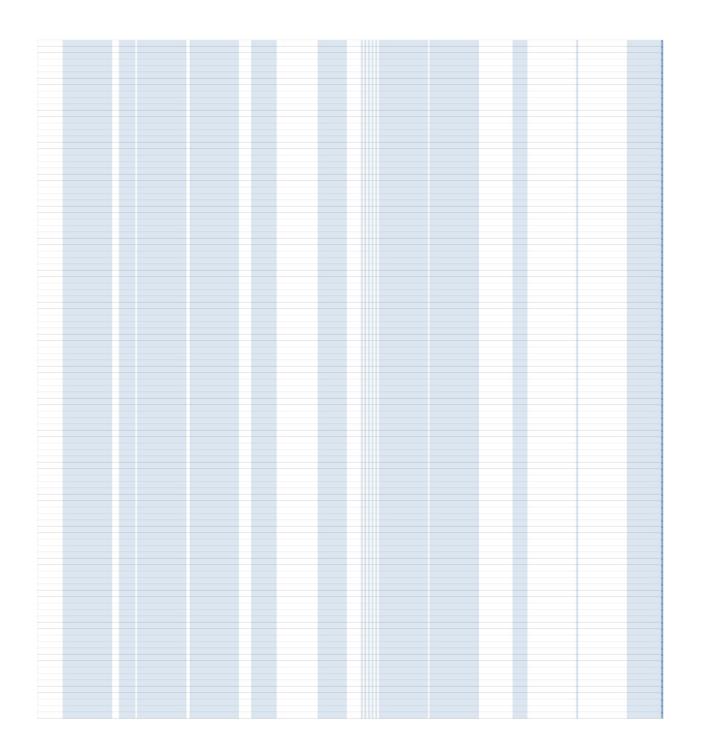




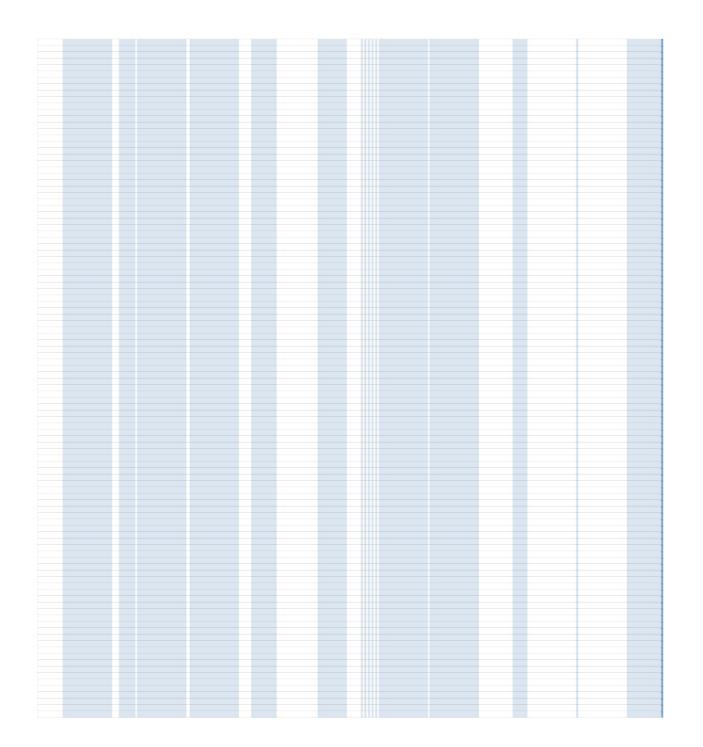












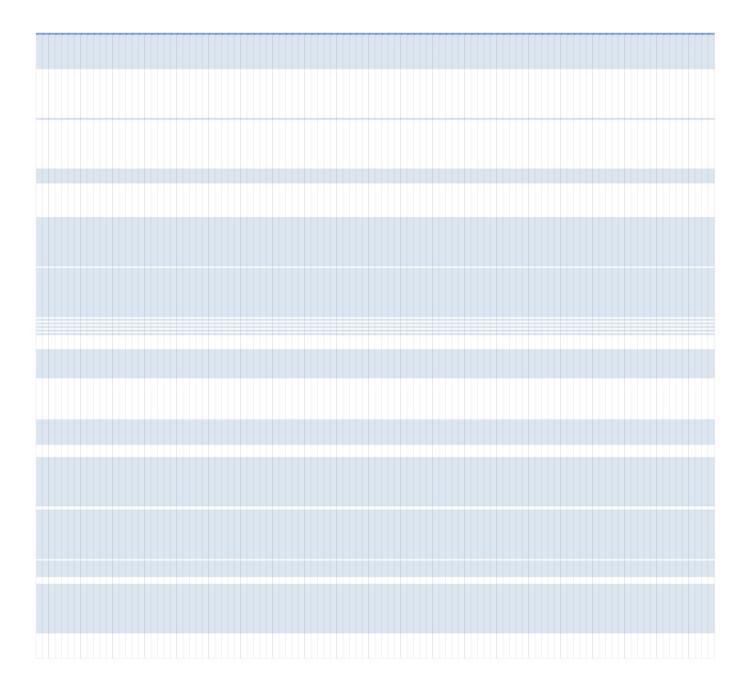




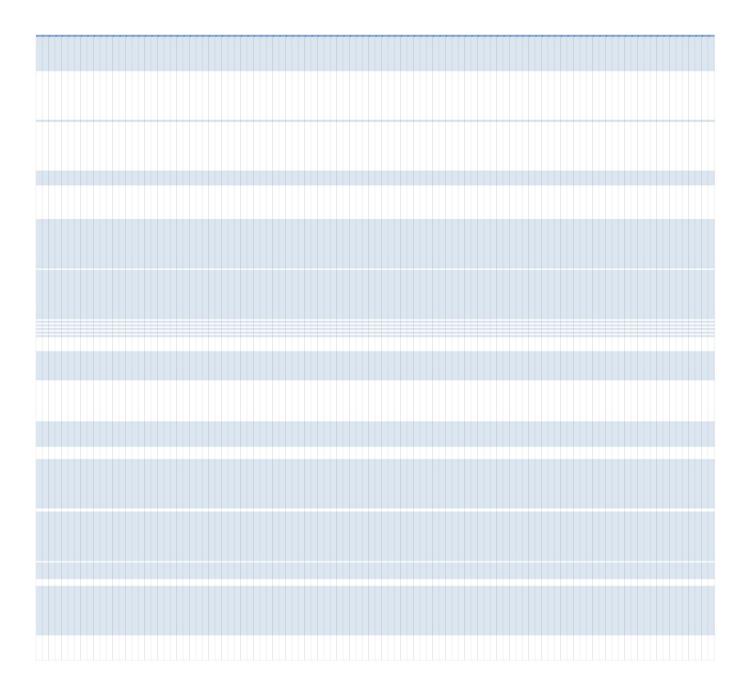
_	 											



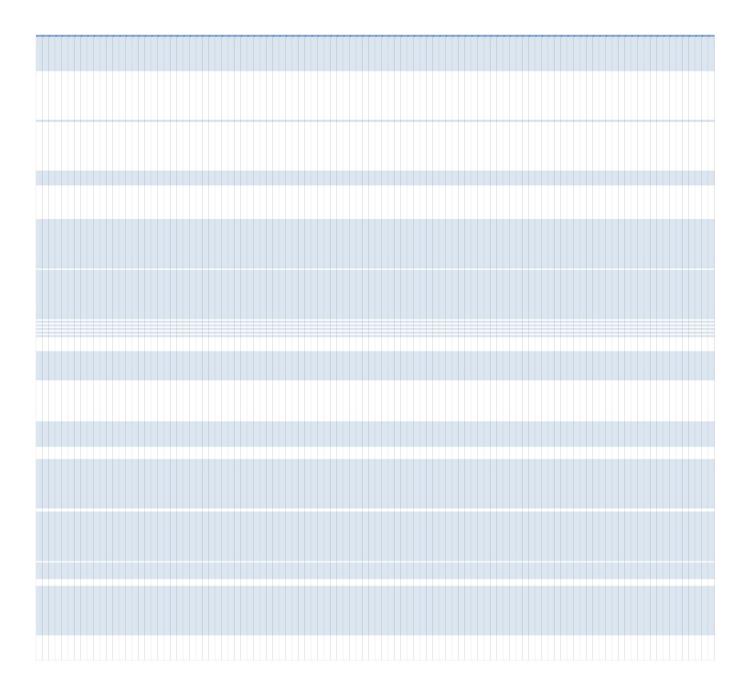




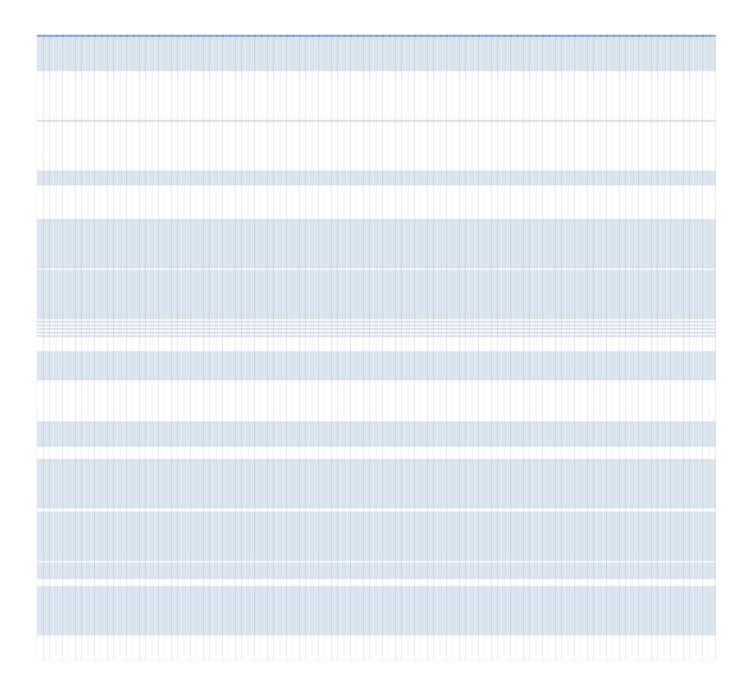










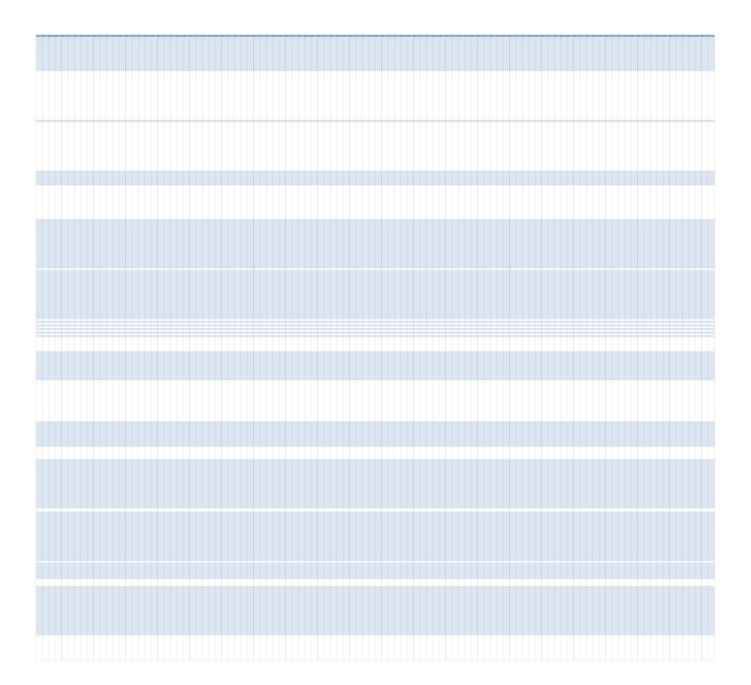




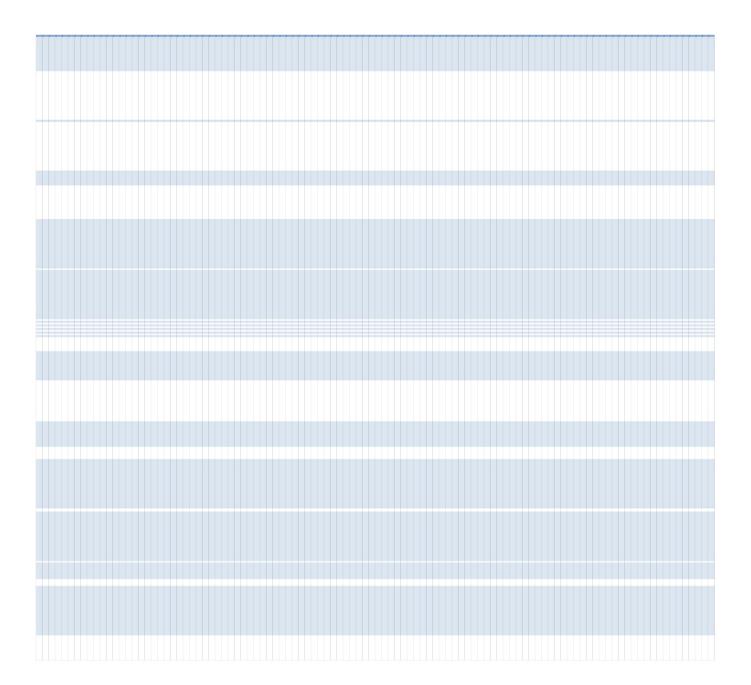


















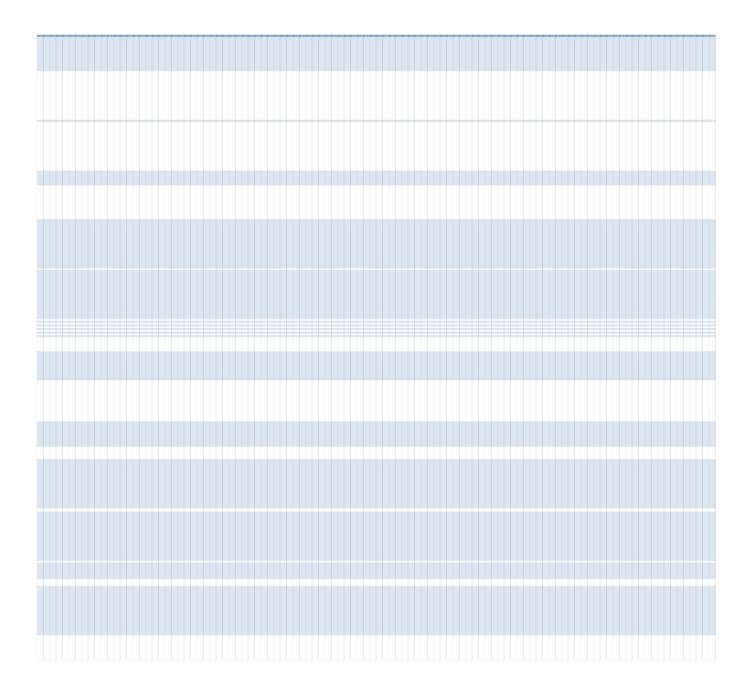


 ***	 	CONTRACTOR	THE RESERVE AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON NAMED IN	 	CONTRACTOR CONTRACTOR CO.	 -	 	 	



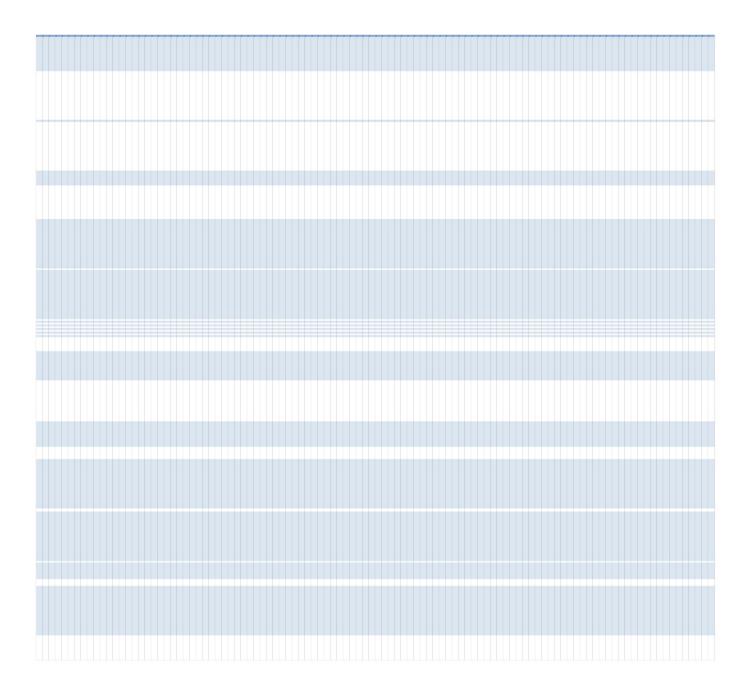




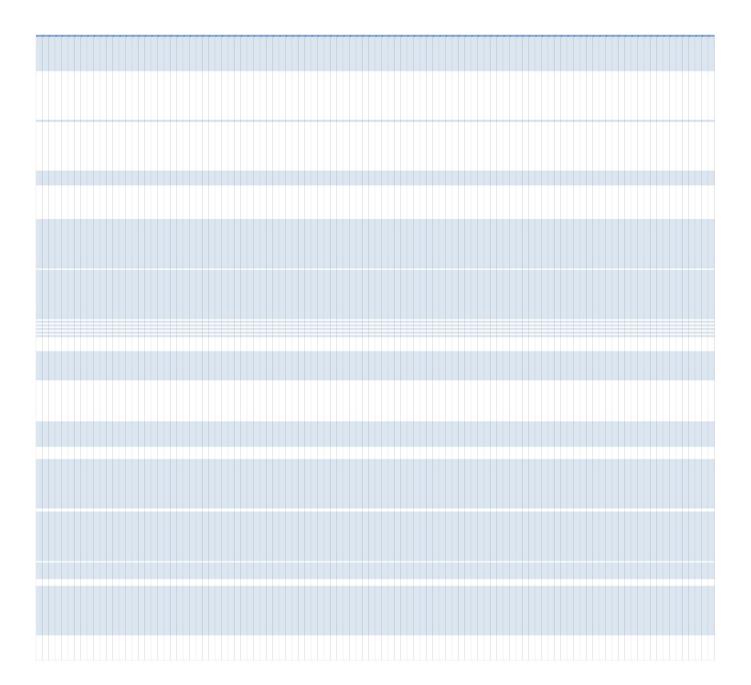








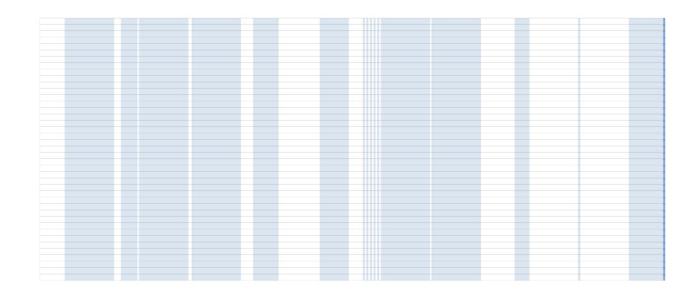












Section 1	LOVE TO SERVICE	514	Territor.	Section Physics	Personal Services	NO. HOLE AND PARTY OF THE PARTY SAFETY OF THE PARTY OF TH	Resident State Section 2	-	THE RESIDENCE AND RESIDENCE AN	no.		is .	Sales	BEET	84	81
1/20/200			Patrick Conc.		ACT or entiregate, which of these periods has been provided the frequently below (positive about problem).	(E) The size of th							14	man)	All continues the relative procedure contractions includes	All, (magin, A) Tagan Region Retrieves and Agent ADA; and in though Matth Association
					A had notice to part of project parties. At had notice to part of courts from the formation to excitate.	- All Report Columns Management accompanies for Columns and columns	off at antening the fill organization.								manufacture and a second a second and a second a second and a second a	Scop Still, make agen
					And the best blooms our dig to oppose All	AT LEGISLO BOTH THE REST OF TH	1 of an experience of the second contract of									
					\$1000 to be seen that the seen to be seen to	Committee of the commit	OF LABOUR SIZE PROPERTY AND LONG THE ARREST AND									
					Part.	All desired a some facility patient. All counting all as the counting of the patient patient of the local some source of the local source of the	Name of the Party									
						and the order of the Contract of the Contract of Contract of the Contract of t										
						colored, the East-Philip Resides along the attribuy continuous factors.										
STREET, STREET	LOUIS 1	146	THEFT	PRINCES 41	Angel Philosophy Control of the Cont	THE PARTY OF THE P	NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY O	NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE OWNER, WHEN PARTY AND AD	Name and Address of the Owner o	NAMES AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY	RAPES AND THE PARTY NAMED IN	CONTROL PROPERTY STATES	NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE OWNER, SAME	NAME AND ADDRESS OF	· Burring controller	Name and Paris No.
					THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY OF T	TOTAL STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE										
					Manager Street and and continue the street services											
NUCLE	and the late	NAME OF TAXABLE PARTY.	Transference.	(most)/sings	a l'indicategra aporte de sistem delle papera, actegati dele sur la disconsidera del sistem del singui del sistem del si	- Historia de la Harrison III de la Company	 Mile of antisomorphy obvious professional control in corporate professional control in the professional control in the control i			40	0 0		46	100		clieds We's represented to be a fill that with a delice the designed
					CORNER STORM AND ADDRESS OF A STORM AND ADDRESS.	continues on the authorized artists processing and			represented the first court of t							Charles and for the first form of the control of the printed of the control of th
					A DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON.	continued by digital and the description of the continued by digital and t										THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY OF T
					Control transcent and transcent and the section of	ACCORDING THE ROOM TO A STATE OF THE PARTY O			The second state of the se							MINERO MORE
									The special and the second section of the second section of the se							
									Control of According to Control and Control of Control							
									Contract of the spine of the street of the process.							
		Assessment from the color of th														
		an .			THE REAL PROPERTY AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY.	MARKET PROPERTY.	DESCRIPTION AND PROPERTY AND PERSONS ASSESSED.	-								
na/mornion					Property and the same of the s		MATERIAL PROPERTY AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY AND									
					PC to French, It, length () In the part () I The property of the public to be death front date for its contract of the public to the part ().											
					1 This are madings than apply the ball and food attraction. State of the Stat											
					THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY OF T											
					A THE OWNER OF THE PROPERTY OF											
	urion 1	OH .			STATE STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE	to palmoutine obtain changes for planting that an appropriate disregard by a realist representa- tion will be obtain a promote plantine as the assessment is according to the behavior of the promote planting to the contract of make a deposition of a spiriturity of a sent-ring.	(majorgeride)									
					when I below below as I I be able to be a price to be	The effective agency and an experience and the	Committee of the contract of t									
					Appearts of the Party of the second section of the section of the second section of the section of the second section of the section											
	100	THE PERSON NAMED IN														
	100	STATE OF THE PARTY														
	200	06														
	-0.0															
	-0.0	that of Exemplois that of Exemplois that of the residence (TE)														
	100	The second	1981 544			The company of the control of the co	NAME AND ASSOCIATED AND PARTY OF THE PARTY OF THE PARTY.									
					COUNTY SECTION AND ADDRESS OF THE PROPERTY OF	material from many to make and agent, beautiful translationary		by got embedding phosphological and a part of willing their agreement for the								
		Indian/Aprille Constant				And the second s	India formation	Company of the Compan								
		Being and blooks			Bullion .	Territorio estratorio pel 1860	tella formalia et res	to i								
	LONG I	Water State	THE BOOK		Supplemental States	Selfments (SST	Structure pursuant SSSS*									
					Control of	"Screening and	Strategische SSS* - SSSuri- seiner der Strategische villerengsseine - SSSuri- gester der gestertung villerengsseine - SSSuri- gester der gester schale unter									
					Control Service 18											
			Deliver of the s			THE RESERVE AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY OF THE	Research of the same acceptance of the same of the sam									
				-		Note at 1870 to be a processor of the format in the left of the control of the co	the factor of the party of the									
					The Annies of the Party of the Control of the Control of the Party of the Control of											
					Replace Section 2019 representative transportation of the Section 2019											
					DATE OF THE STREET, ST											



			Name Association In	-	The Real Property lies and the State of the	Spide adverge and	Telephone .	Milital	Additional	Managhain.	hannest han	Table	may be a firm product made from	- Laboratoria	Name the Polyales Chicago	Referent and a Contract
										u .		8.				
					Report Frogers Stragers reported to the party of	AND REAL PROPERTY AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY ADDRESS OF THE PARTY AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY ADDRESS	ALLES TO A STATE OF THE PARTY O									THE REAL PROPERTY AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY AND
					the Party course of the same	reports and regions argues. The All Bellevin being a respective contraction of	- KT will contain a galar information for the propose of any contract.									
						All section is producted to the product of the party of t	and delice or delice.								ter been	
						made of the state	- All advantages agent from an accommoding the spray on the I							Technical Trees and the		
					PROMINENTAL STREET, NOT YOUR TON TO BE	AT LABOUR COMPANY DEPARTMENT OF THE PROPERTY OF	Name and Address of the Owner, when the Owner, which the									
						A private of colors of topological and against										
						\$25.00E	(Albert							The auditorial production at home		
					Strate, Sections on Total									CHARLES WATER TO SERVE		
								Miles acceptant	MANUAL PROPERTY.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE OWNER, WHEN PERSON ADDRESS OF THE OWNER, WHEN PERSON AND ADDRESS OF THE OWNER, WHEN	NAME AND ADDRESS.	Married across professors	Miles and the same		maring across policies.	Secretary and Commission of the Commission of th

COM IN	Owner of	-	Specification disease	and sold designing or	Bridge and the British of the control of the the state of the control and the state of the control of the the control of the control of the control of the the control of the control of the control of the the control of the control of the control of the the control of the control of the control of the the control of the control of the control of the the control of the control of the control of the the control of the control of the control of the control		Trend apprilication and soft	National Residence (III review participates better ones	Whitehit is first date. So hand a received of the 1 this is the post of the 1 this is the post of the 1 this is t	secondari	non arted	Non-collection broughts observed and collect	Add a completely	ness saled	concentral	mountd.
					THE PERSON NAMED AND POST OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE PERSON NAMED AND POST OFFI ADDRESS OFFI ADDRESS OF THE PERSON NAMED AND POST OFFI ADDRESS OFFI A			Miningstone spirit frameworks and	Notice on any other hands to be a state of the state of t			(Acres and Colors				
									CANADA CONTRACTOR CONT							
					Section of the Landson automore pring out				Kindlestel increase between the elegation							
					Table Street Street											
					Management and the program											
					Contract of the Party of the Pa											
					THE PERSON OF PROPERTY OF THE PERSON OF THE											
					Expensive an diensi post program to											
					The Street of Street, or Street, Married Street, Street, or other											
					And the second second second for the second											
					Contract the Section of the Section 1											
- 14	district of	natio lidi los miles bendeyle Benetista (i)														
	Water 1				SHARM	PROCESSOR OF THE PARTY OF THE P	CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROPERTY O	ETHING:								
					I HAVE THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN	A MARKET CONTRACTOR CO	A THE OWNERS HAVE AND REAL PROPERTY AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY AND ADDRES	I THE RESERVE THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF T								
						House, I Constitution regard by EC half a fact from the Provide Constitution of the C	a proprieta de la facilitación de la companya del companya del companya de la com	Appropriate Contract of the State of the Sta								
							on hands									
							ster									
						miles reached and follow their bear best reaching their and reach their bearings and reaching their security of the second secon										
					Late Au - 100 Million Commiss deployed on be for the Amparel Section Section (ACC) for the American											
					Involved from (ACT) has had the extreme a collection of the collection of the collection of the collection of the collection of the collection of an artificial collection of the collection of the collection of a collection of the collection o											
					E AND REPORTED THE SERVICE STREET, THE											
					· DO Sentence Sent Non-Sentence Sent											
					I THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY OF											
					11 Paper Add 100 1 Paper Add Action Continues Continues And August 100 Augus											
	(Bernelli)				to a State of the											
					PROFESSOR STANDARDS & SANDARDS AND A		, the plant with a constraint was the first and the constraint with the constraint $(\alpha_{ij},\alpha_{ij})$	\$4000 complete free prints, if prints it shows high speciment feets for both								
					before another (Stock), Elevation report, 40;	The federal action is finding national for facility action design. The first half-one district action action and enhanced the control of the	CONTRACTOR OF STREET SALES AND ADDRESS AND	Book the box exception in country of the country of							March Committee of	
					PROTECTION OF THE PARTY OF THE PARTY OF THE PARTY.		CONTRACTOR STATE OF THE STATE O	I TO TOTAL OF THE WAY TO SELECT								
					benefit in the second second second second sec	Annual or constitution of the state of the s		Product inspectation was an inscisation.								
					Out-to-state and the state of t	the Military and all the special and a second of the second		Stangers acting a makes of factories disperse, comings and had								
								Principle Registers Register Associated Participation								
					A ST. CO., Co. of Co., Co. of Co., Co., Co., Co., Co., Co., Co., Co.,			Straphonical construction community								
					Control			Self-refreship among adjustment								
								Transcondense of strange authorise								
					CONTROL CONTROL OF THE PARTY OF											
					E Thomas Constitute and Alband Angulana											
					Management has been entireped bloom but have been been been been been been been be											
-																
	2010	na elicinatio														
	Section 1	to chiatotic control dispositive and chiatotic control dispositive and chiatotic														
	Trum.															
	STATE OF THE PARTY															
-	market 1	and all belows														
-	Marie I	of the County														
- 10	more a	of distriction of the control of the	National Control													
100	distance in		Tolk color		The street of the control of the Autor of the Control of the Contr											
					the collection of the second second second second											
i de	The State of	de traditioning														
	World I	de tod between														
	COLUMN A		Extent but		The successful designation of the	- Matterpopulated Science -	THE CHARLEST THE RESIDENCE AND ADDRESS.	and the same of th		14	10	40		107	47	
							THE CONTRACTOR WAS ASSURED AS A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE									
					COR THE LANS OF THE PARTY OF TH		NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE OWNER.									
					Comparison of the Comparison o											
										5.0	_		_		_	_
100	manual v		Secretario .		Fill facility are dispressing and properties.	*Emples Parkets	TOTAL PORT - BOT - BART - PROTEST - THE TOTAL - THE T	-			-		-			-
							And agree desired and agreement									
10.750 140	North 1	met.	book discuss	produced and the pr		And the same of the latter of	William the property of the control				-			-		
										1 NOT A SECURE OF THE PARTY OF						
										I ME STATE AND AND STATE OF STATE AND ASSESSED.						
										TOTA decreased the early tenders producted and before being pages (of						



Hurricane Harvey Stoplight Issue Tracker

Updated On: 10/11/17

Core Mission Area/Issue Area

Public/Environmental Health

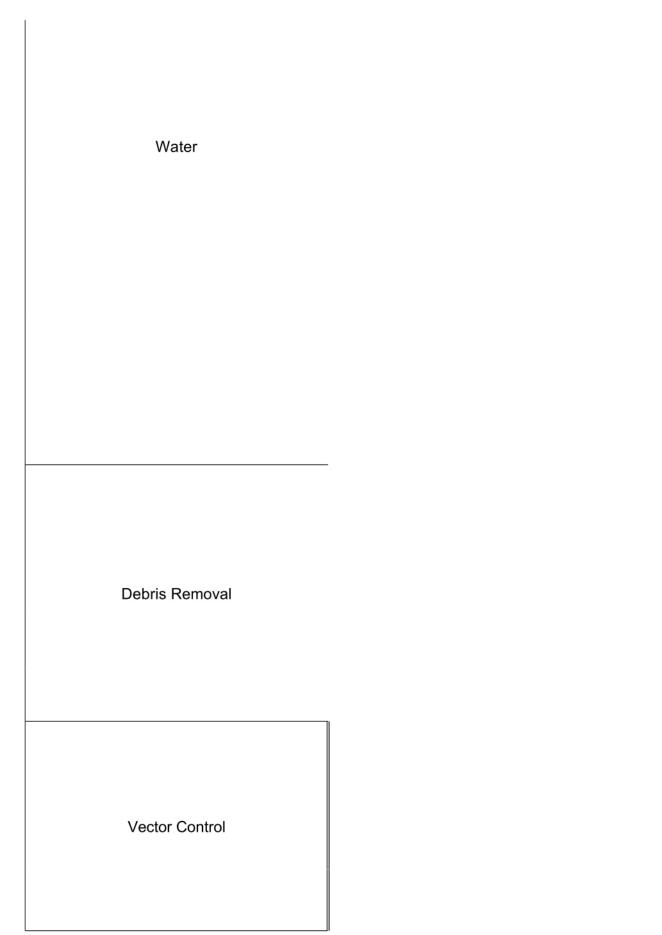
Public Health

Disease surveillance



Epidemiological assessments of flood water exposure
Communications
Environmental Health Impacts







Chemical Pollutants
Food Safety and Regulated Medical Products
Overall food safety

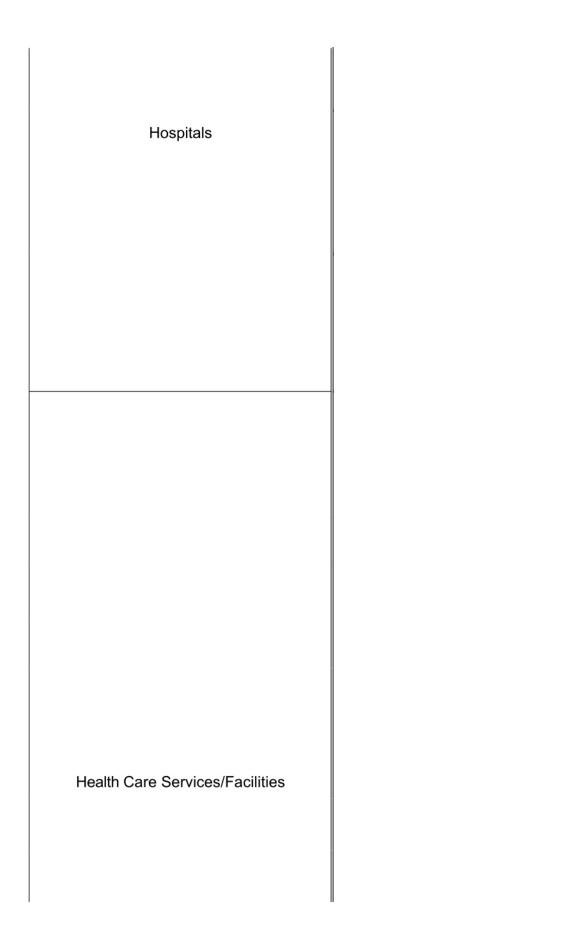


Medical Products Facilties	
Vaccines	
Long-term Health Issues Specific to Responders	
First Responders	
Volunteers	

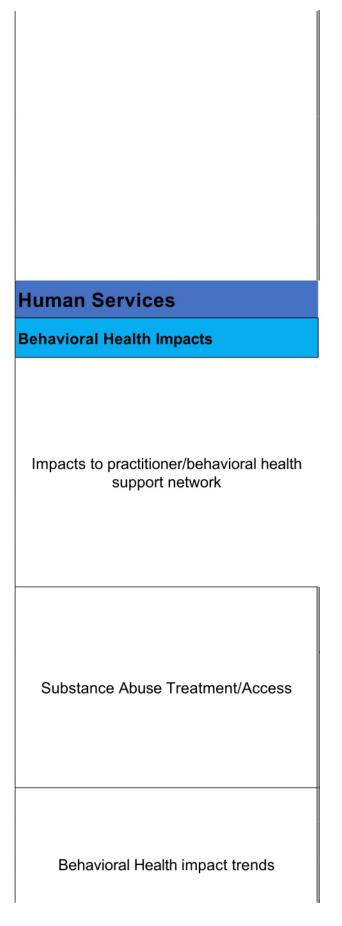


C	ommunity Responders
Health C	are Systems
Health Cai	re Services Impacts
	Response Activities











Social Services Impacts Access to Social Services At-Risk Populations

Displaced Citizens

Referral to Social Services/Disaster Case Management



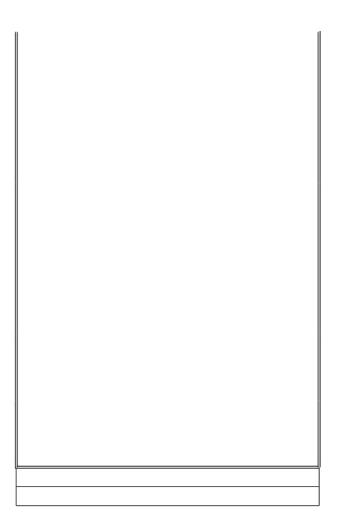
Disaster case management **Children and Youth in Disasters**

Child Care



Child Nutrition
School Impacts







From: Bulletin Intelligence

Sent: 15 Sep 2017 07:29:28 -0400
To: HHS@bulletinintelligence.com

Subject: HHS News Briefing for Friday, September 15, 2017

Attachments: HHSNewsBriefing170915.doc

HHS NEWS BRIEFING

This document and searchable archives are available at hhs.bulletinintelligence.com.

TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2017 7:30 AM EDT

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

LEADING THE NEWS:

- + CBO Predicts Higher Premiums For ACA Plans, Lower Enrollment Due To Trump Policies.
- + HHS Cuts Funding For Some Navigators By As Much As 85%.

THE SECRETARY IN THE NEWS:

- + HHS Secretary Price Announces Funding For Opioid, Mental Health Services In Visit To New Hampshire.
- + Trump Administration Reportedly Considering Using Tax Reform To Defund ACA.
- + Advocates Urge HHS To Reject Massachusetts' Waiver Request To Cut MassHealth Transportation Benefits.
- + Opinion: MACRA Provides An Opportunity To Transform Care Through Alternative Payment Models.

HHS IN THE NEWS:

- + Medicare To Issue New Cards In Anti-Fraud Effort.
- + Gottlieb: FDA Is Focused On Boosting Competition To Address Drug Prices.
- + FDA Approves Biosimilar Version Of Bevacizumab.
- + FDA Approves Copanlisib To Treat Follicular Lymphoma.
- + Paulsen: FDA Needs To Be Modernized.
- + FDA Approves App To Treat Substance Abuse.
- + New Product Claims It May Reduce Peanut Allergies In Infants.
- + House \$1.2 Trillion Spending Bill Adds \$9 Billion In NIH Funding.
- + Dogs Participating In Clinical Trials Of Immuno-Oncology Treatments.
- + Immunotherapy Trials Increased In Popularity Since "False Dawn" Of IL-2.
- + Current Anti-Cancer Technology Evolving To Better Treat Patients.
- + Problem Drinking Rising Fast Among Older Americans, NIAAA Researchers Find.
- + CDC Director Warns Of Post-Hurricane Dangers.
- + Reduction In HHS, CMS Health Insurance Marketing Budgets Will Impact North Texas Healthcare Groups.
- + AHRQ, PCORI To Award Grants For Learning Health System Training And Research.

HEALTH REFORM:

- + Trump Criticizes Sanders' Single-Payer Proposal, Calls It "A Curse On The US."
- + Trump Says McCain's Vote Against The Senate's ACA Repeal Bill Led To Sanders' Single-Payer Proposal.
- + Graham Urges Trump To Focus On ACA Repeal Ahead Of Reconciliation Deadline.
- + Sen. Barrasso Wants CBO to Score Sanders' "Medicare For All" Proposal.
- + Growing Support For Single-Payer Among Dems Shows Sanders' Influence In The Party.
- + Sanders Reportedly Fails To Explain How His Single-Payer Plan Will Be Funded.



- + Analysis: Americans Are "Ambivalent" About Single-Payer, Not "Clamoring" For It As Sanders Contends.
- + Number Of Uninsured Veterans Would Increase If ACA Were Repealed, Study Indicates.
- + Healthcare Debate Becomes Part Of Baldwin's Bid For Re-Election Next Year.
- + Cuts To Outreach Efforts May Impact Low-Income Iowans Who Purchase ACA Plans.
- + ACA Had Significant Impact On Number Of Insured, Census Data Indicate.
- + Single-Payer Plan Similar To Sanders' "Failed...Really Badly" In Colorado.
- + Senate HELP Committee Hopes To Complete ACA Stabilization Measure By Early Next Week.
- + Some Dems Willing To Consider Alternatives To ACA's Individual Mandate.
- + Bipartisan Group Of Senators Working On ACA Stabilization Bill Still At Odds.
- + Op-Ed Says Insurers May Be Willing To Compromise With Sanders On Single-Payer.
- + Sponsors Of Latest ACA Repeal Bill Seek To Garner Support Among Colleagues.
- + Rep. Louie Gohmert Pushing Senators To Pass ACA Repeal Bill Before Month's End.
- + Senator GOP Whipping Support For Graham-Cassidy ACA Repeal Bill.
- + New Mexico Officials Say State Insurance Market Has Stabilized.
- + South Carolina Insurance Chief Urges Congress To Fund CSR Payments.
- + Commentary Considers Health Reform.

OPIOID NEWS:

- + Opinion: Physicians Contributed To, Now Need To Help Reverse, The Opioid Epidemic.
- + Prosecutors Say Insys Founder Is An Unindicted Co-Conspirator In Opioid Case.
- + Indiana Begins Data Collection, Sharing Initiative To Combat Opioid Crisis.

HEALTHCARE FRAUD:

+ Opinion: Medicaid Agencies Not Doing Enough To Stop Fraud.

HEALTHCARE NEWS:

- + Authorities Continue Investigation Of South Florida Nursing Home Where Eight Died.
- + House Energy And Commerce Committee May Seek Nursing Home Oversight Following Recent Deaths.
- + Long-Term Care Industry Objected To Costs Of 2005 Bill That Would Have Mandated Generators.
- + Florida Nursing Home Says It Was Prepared For Irma As Investigation Continues.
- + Florida Representative Blasts Nursing Home For Evacuation Delay.
- + Trump Administration's Support For Arbitration Agreements Could Make It Harder To Sue Florida Nursing Home.
- + Shulkin Opens VA's Beds To Nursing Home Residents Affected By Irma.
- + Police "Raid" Texas Nursing Home That Left Residents In Floodwaters.
- + Experts Recommend Strategies For Selecting Trustworthy Nursing Home.
- + Opinion: Healthcare Price Shopping Process Needs Improved Transparency.
- + US House Votes To Repeal DC's Assisted-Suicide Law, Senate Has Yet To Act.

HUMAN SERVICES NEWS:

- + Seventy Healthcare Organizations Press Congress On DACA.
- + Pennsylvania Auditor General Finds Child-Welfare System To Be "Broken" In New Report.

NUTRITION & OBESITY:

+ Cardiologist Discusses Weight Gain, Metabolic Changes Tied To Artificial Sweeteners.

MEDICARE:

+ Health Data Exchange Could Save Medicare \$3.12 Billion Annually, Study Says.

MEDICAID & CHIP:

- + Former Sen. Frist: Children's Health Insurance Program Demands Quick, Bipartisan Passage.
- + Opinion: CHIP Reauthorization Remains Tenuous As Deadline Approaches.
- + Medicaid Demand Strains New Mexico's Finances.



- + Virginia House Candidates Face Off Over Medicaid Expansion.
- + Idaho Officials Offer Plan To Address Medicaid Gap, Lower Premiums.
- + Study Finds ACA Medicaid Expansion Tied To Earlier Cancer Care For The Poor.
- + Columnist Asks Whether Nevadans Would Pay Higher Taxes For Medicaid Expansion.

HEALTH & MEDICAL NEWS:

- + New Therapies Indicate Cancer Is Becoming More Survivable.
- + Variety Of New Cancer Treatments Are Under Development.
- + Researchers Make Progress In Treating Pediatric Cancer Thanks To Donated Brain Of Former College Football Coach's Grandson.
- + Philadelphia Institutions Participating In NIH-Funded "Smart" Water Bottle Study To Reduce Kidney Stones.
- + Pennsylvania Health Department Issues Report On Pittsburgh Hospital's Breach Of Privacy Of Unconscious Patient.
- + Man Suffers Erectile Dysfunction After Being Scratched By Cat.
- + March For Science Organizers Plot Long-Term Strategy.
- + Roswell Park Researchers Explore Beta Blocker Use For Cancer Therapies.
- + Report Finds Shortcomings In Biomedical Research.
- + Happy Music May Stimulate Creativity, Study Suggests.
- + In Long-Term Relationships, Women Are More Likely Than Men To Lose Interest In Sex, Study Suggests.
- + Physician Says "Nudges" Can Help Seriously III Patients Make Hard End-Of-Life Decisions.
- + House Votes To Prohibit Funding Of District Of Columbia Reproductive Health Law.
- + Ohio House Speaker Says Flu Vaccine Bill Moved Too Quickly, Needs Work.
- + Abortion Rates Fall As More Hospitals Are Acquired By Catholic-Affiliated Systems, Study Suggests.
- + Enzalutamide Shows Promising Results For Patients With Early Stage Prostate Cancer In Clinical Trial.
- + Moderna, AstraZeneca's Experimental Heart Drug Shows Promising Results In Early Trial.
- + Romosozumab Reduces Risk Of Bone Fractures In Women With Osteoporosis, Study Indicates.
- + Investors Funding Companies Developing Technologies To Improve Medication Adherence.
- + Drugs Approved Under Expedited Review Have Higher Rate Of Changes To Safety Warnings, Study Finds.
- + Federal Investigation Results In New Confession In International Counterfeit Pet Pharmaceutical Scam.
- + Commentary Supports Philip Morris' Modified Risk Tobacco Product Application For IQOS Technology.
- + Lilly. Incyte's Baricitinib Meets Phase 2 Endpoints.
- + Brief, Intense Exercise May Activate Molecular Pathways In The Body That Boost Chemicals That Suppress Growth Of Breast Cancer Cells, Research In Mice Suggests.
- + San Diego Bleaching Streets To Combat Hepatitis A Outbreak.
- + Suffolk County Confirms First Two Human West Nile Virus Cases Of Year.
- + Yolo County Officials Confirm Two "Severe" Cases Of West Nile Virus.
- + Company Develops New 3-D Printing Technique To Produce Viable Human Organs.
- + Google Imposes Restrictions On Ads Placed By Drug Rehabilitation Centers.
- + Column: Hospital Administrators Responsible For Managing, Preventing Workplace Violence Against Nurses.
- + Allergan Tribal Patent Delves Into Unexplored Legal Terrain.
- + Gardner Signs On To Support Medical Marijuana Research Bill.
- + Study: Bacteria Could Protect Tumors From Anticancer Drugs.

GLOBAL HEALTH:

- + Study Finds Poor Diets, Tobacco, Mental Disorders Are Leading Causes Of III Health Around The World.
- + Health Officials Halt Blood Donations In Parts Of Rome Amid Chikungunya Outbreak.



- + EU Agency Gives Positive Opinion To GlaxoSmithKline's Inhaler.
- + Lung Cancer Cases In Northern Ireland "Increase By A Third," Says Report.
- + China Asserts It Has Reformed Controversial Organ Transplant System Through Voluntary Online Registry.
- + Malaysia Becomes First Country To Issue A License To Make Generic Versions Of Sofosbuvir.

NATIONAL NEWS:

- + As Right Lashes Out, Trump Says DACA Deal Would Include "Massive Border Controls."
- + Trump Meets With Irma Survivors, Praises Federal And State Response.
- + SBA Providing Low-Interest Disaster Loans To Irma Victims.
- + Irma's Agricultural Cost Estimated In The Billions.
- + Florida Facing Shortage Of Insurance Adjusters.
- + FPL Promises To Have Power On By Sunday On Florida's East Coast.
- + Focus In Florida Keys Turns To Relief.
- + Mobile Home Community Takes "Horrific Hit."
- + Raw Sewage Backing Up On Lawns In Lee County, Florida.
- + VA Opens Beds To Nursing Home Residents Affected By Irma.
- + Irma's Death Toll Rises To 26.
- + Relief Supplies Flowing Into St. Maarten.
- + Models Indicate Tropical Storm Jose Is Unlikely To Come Ashore.
- + Officials Believe Hurricane Harvey Death Toll Is "At Least 82."
- + Harris County Flood District Seeking Funds For Harvey-Related Home Buyouts.
- + Trump Reiterates That There Were "Bad Dudes" On Both Sides In Charlottesville.
- + Trump To Hold Conference With Jewish Leaders.
- + NYTimes A1: Trump "Berated" Sessions After Appointment Of Mueller.
- + USA Today Analysis: Congressional Panels In Russia Probe "Tripping Over One Another."
- + Trump Rips Rice's Unmasking Of Transition Officials As "Just The Tip Of The Iceberg."
- + White House Pressing State To Speed Up Release Of Clinton Emails.
- + In Leaked Memo, McMaster Tells Agencies To Warn Staff Against Leaking Information.
- + Mnuchin Says Request To Use Government Jet Was Based On Need For Secure Communications.
- + Senate Panel Approves Four Trump Judicial Nominees.
- + Administration May Replace Obama Climate Rule Rather Than Repeal It.
- + Trump To Spend Majority Of Week In NYC At Palace Hotel.
- + Dow Sets Record As S&P And Nasdag Slide.
- + Rosenstein Signals Upcoming Changes On Corporate-Crime Prosecution Policy.
- + Pompeo Cancels Harvard Speech After Chelsea Manning Named Fellow.
- + McConnell-Backed Group's Poll Shows Moore Leading Strange 41%-40%.
- + NRCC Official Says There's "No Indication" Trump Will Wade Into GOP House Primaries.
- + Progressive Groups Spending \$2M On Digital Ads Aimed At Boosting Northam.
- + Poll: 50% Of Voters Say Menendez Doesn't Deserve Reelection In 2018.
- + Head Of AFP's Tennessee Chapter Announces Run For Corker's Seat.
- + Michigan's El-Sayed Bidding To Become Nation's First Muslim Governor.
- + State Democratic Party Chief Says Rep. Castro "Considering" Run Against Abbott.
- + "The Upshot" Analysis: For Democrats To Benefit, Millennials Need To Turn Out At Higher Rates.
- + Under Trump, ACLU And SPLC See Big Increase In Workplace Donations.
- + Johnson, McCaskill Criticize Waste, Fraud In Low-Income Phone Program.
- + Google Hit With Gender Discrimination Lawsuit.
- + FTC Investigating Equifax Breach.
- + Obama Foundation Holds Outreach Meeting.
- + One Dead, Seven Injured In Ft. Bragg Training Accident.
- + Washington State School Shooter Posted Video Of Himself Acting Out Shootings.
- + Weiner's Attorneys Question Credibility, Motivation Of Sexting Victim.
- + Columnists Take Issue With Democrats' Questioning Of Barrett.
- + WPost: Kobach Is A Fraud, Not New Hampshire Voters.



EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + New York Times.
- + Washington Post.
- + Wall Street Journal.

THE BIG PICTURE:

+ Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

LAST LAUGHS:

+ Late Night Political Humor.

Leading the News:

CBO PREDICTS HIGHER PREMIUMS FOR ACA PLANS, LOWER ENROLLMENT DUE TO TRUMP POLICIES. The AP (9/14, Fram) reports that according to the Congressional Budget Office, average premiums for plans purchased through Affordable Care Act exchanges will increase by about 15 percent in 2018, mainly due to "marketplace nervousness over whether President Donald Trump will block federal subsidies to insurers." The article says Trump has "repeatedly threatened" to eliminate ACA subsidy payments to insurers as part of his effort to roll back the healthcare law. The CBO added that premiums will also rise because of the "growing numbers of people living in regions where only one insurer sells policies, therefore facing less competition."

The Hill (9/14, Hellmann, 1.68M) reports that the insurance industry has "pleaded for more certainty on key ObamaCare payments called cost-sharing reduction subsidies, which reimburse them for giving discounts to low-income patients." While the Trump Administration has been making the "payments on a month-to-month basis...insurers want them funded on a long-term basis."

Reuters (9/14, Humer) reports the CBO is also predicting that enrollment in ACA plans for 2018 will be lower compared to previous years because of "the Trump administration's decision to pull back enrollment efforts." The article says the Administration has cut spending on advertising, shortened the open enrollment period by 50 percent, and reduced outreach. The piece adds that the CBO "now estimates that the average monthly enrollment on the exchanges will be about 11 million people, down about 4 million from last year's forecast."

The Washington Examiner (9/14, Leonard, 465K) reports that the higher premiums will also "cause 2 million more people than expected to become uninsured between this year and next," the CBO predicted. The increases are expected to impact "people who don't have medical coverage through a job or the government and do not receive subsidies under Obamacare to pay for coverage."

The <u>Washington Times</u> (9/14, Howell, 541K) reports that "premiums will rise an average of 5 percent a year over the next decade, much higher than the annual inflation rate," according to the CBO.

The <u>Hartford (CT) Courant</u> (9/14, Blair, 463K) reports that customers on Connecticut's health insurance exchange will pay premiums that are up to 31.7 percent higher, assuming President Trump ends the cost-sharing reductions.

Vox (9/14, Kliff, 1.54M) and Daily Intelligencer (NY) (9/14, Levitz, 519K) also cover the story.

HHS CUTS FUNDING FOR SOME NAVIGATORS BY AS MUCH AS 85%. The Washington Post (9/14, Eilperin, Goldstein, 10.38M) reports HHS "officials have informed grass-roots groups that assist with enrollment under the Affordable Care Act that their funding will be reduced by as much



as 85 percent, a move that could upend outreach efforts across the country." The Post adds that "the groups, which fund organizations known as 'navigators,' had been braced for the cuts since the Trump administration announced two weeks ago that it would shrink overall program funding by 41 percent and slash the department's ACA advertising budget from \$100 million to \$10 million." Advocates for navigators warn that the "deep cuts would undermine" enrollment efforts for 2018, but HHS has cast doubt on the value of the navigator program, and last month, HHS spokeswoman Caitlin Oakley "issued a statement calling it 'ineffective' and saying that funding for this next enrollment period would be 'in proportion to their performance."

In a separate article, the <u>Washington Post</u> (9/14, Soffen, Uhrmacher, 10.38M) reports states in the Midwest and the South will see the largest cuts to the outreach programs. The website posts an interactive state-by-state map to show the cuts. The piece says the burden of the cuts "will likely fall more on states that lean Republican" because several "blue states run their own marketplaces and fund their own navigator program, so they won't be affected by these federal cuts."

The <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/15, King, 465K) reports that some navigators are facing budget cuts "of as much as 90 percent." The article added that some navigators questioned HHS' funding formula, and said that "they do a lot more than just sign up people for Obamacare, such as help consumers pick a plan and determine how to choose a doctor."

The <u>Columbus (OH) Dispatch</u> (9/14, Candisky, 456K) reports that one navigator in Ohio was "in an absolute state of shock" when it learned that its funding would be cut by 71 percent.

The Hill (9/14, Roubein, 1.68M) also covers the story.

The Secretary in the News:

HHS SECRETARY PRICE ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR OPIOID, MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN VISIT TO NEW HAMPSHIRE. New Hampshire Public Radio (9/14, McDermott) reports that Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price visited a health center in Somersworth, New Hampshire, to announce \$200 million in federal grants to community health centers that the article said will "increase access to mental health and opioid abuse services." Secretary Price said, "The president has talked recently about raising the level of the opioid crisis to an emergency, and we're working on that with his staff, literally as we speak, to bring greater clarity and focus to that, and to bring greater enthusiasm, if you will, on the part of elected officials in Washington." Nine New Hampshire health centers and the city of Manchester will receive approximately \$175,000 apiece under the grants.

Mississippi Providers Get \$3M Federal Grant To Address Opioids. The Jackson (MS) Clarion Ledger (9/14, Wolfe, 255K) reports that the US Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) granted over \$3 million targeted directly to 18 Mississippi health centers to address the opioid "super pandemic." HHS Secretary Tom Price said in a statement, "No corner of our country, from rural areas to urban centers, has escaped the scourge of the opioid crisis. ... These grants from HRSA go directly to local organizations, which are best situated to address substance abuse and mental health issues in their own communities." The article says health centers will use the funds to "expand and integrate mental health services and substance abuse services, in part by increasing personnel and training."

Minnesota Centers To Receive \$2.7 Million. The St. Paul (MN) Pioneer Press (9/14, Magan, 527K) reports that 16 health centers in Minnesota would receive \$2.7 million from the Health Resources and Services Administration "to combat the state's growing drug overdose crisis and improve residents' access to mental health services." Last week, state health officials announced drug overdose deaths climbed 9.2 percent in 2016 to 637 – and nearly 60 percent of them were from opioids, including heroin, prescription painkillers, and other synthetic drugs. Nationwide, the \$200 million will be spread across 1,178 health centers.



Colorado Clinics To Receive \$2.9 Million. The Denver Post (9/14, Brown, 817K) reports that 17 health centers in Colorado will receive \$2.9 million and expect to use the funds to expand "medication-assisted treatment" – using the drug buprenorphine-naloxone which reduces cravings and prevents people from "getting high should they relapse."

West Virginia Health Centers To Receive \$3.7 Million. The AP (9/15) reports that West Virginia Sens. Joe Manchin (D) and Shelley Moore Capito (R) announced that 22 health centers and rural health organizations will receive \$3.7 million in federal funds for increased addiction and mental health services. The senators add that the funds will be used for "personnel, information technology and training."

Secretary Price To Visit Pennsylvania Friday After Giving \$5 Million. The Wilkes-Barre (PA) Times Leader (9/14, O'Boyle, 115K) reports that Secretary Price and Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway will visit the Mirmont Treatment Center in the Philadelphia suburbs on Friday because, Price said, "it is state and local policymakers, advocates, first responders, law enforcement officers, treatment centers, and many more who have responded to help their communities in the areas of response and recovery in this time of great need." The visit comes after the HRSA announced Thursday that 32 Pennsylvania health centers will receive over \$5.3 million in grants to increase access to substance abuse and mental health services. The piece also discusses that Geisinger is set to open its second outpatient addiction clinic in Wilkes-Barre on September 18 and a third is scheduled to open in central Pennsylvania later this year.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION REPORTEDLY CONSIDERING USING TAX REFORM TO DEFUND ACA. The <u>Daily Caller</u> (9/14, Donachie, 521K) reports that the Trump Administration is mulling "the idea of using tax reform as a tool to gut crucial features of Obamacare, a move that would appeal to Trump's base but could leave the health insurance marketplace in shambles." The article says HHS Secretary Tom Price and other Administration officials "met Sept. 7 in the Roosevelt Room at The White House to discuss their plans for tax reform, Axios reports." During the event, there was a discussion about "repealing Obamacare's medical device tax, the tax on health insurance plans and the individual mandate."

ADVOCATES URGE HHS TO REJECT MASSACHUSETTS' WAIVER REQUEST TO CUT MASSHEALTH TRANSPORTATION BENEFITS. The Springfield (MA) Republican (9/14, Schoenberg, 520K) reports that advocacy groups wrote a letter to US Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price urging him to deny a waiver request by Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker (R) to eliminate coverage for non-emergency medical transportation to non-disabled adults earning more than 100 percent of the federal poverty level. The letter was signed by 28 groups – representing people with addiction, kidney disease, autism, epilepsy and others – who say beneficiaries use the benefit to get to their behavioral health appointments, dialysis treatments, and preventative services. A spokeswoman for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services said that the move will save \$5 million and that trips for substance abuse treatment will continue, as will transportation for those who are disabled.

OPINION: MACRA PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO TRANSFORM CARE THROUGH ALTERNATIVE PAYMENT MODELS. Deloitte & Touche principal Anne Phelps writes in Modern Healthcare (9/15, Subscription Publication, 238K) that alternative payment models (APMs) such as medical homes, accountable care organizations, and bundled payments are improving states' Medicaid programs, and could provide an opportunity to move towards APMs in Medicare, Medicaid, and commercial payers, as well. Phelps mentions that both HHS Secretary Tom Price and CMS Administrator Seema Verma "have emphasized state flexibility and encouraged governors to apply for Medicaid section 1115 demonstration waivers to improve their programs." Phelps concludes that the focus should be on MACRA implementation, saying "[t]hese opportunities together could provide the financial incentive to reform and improve care delivery."

HHS in the News:



MEDICARE TO ISSUE NEW CARDS IN ANTI-FRAUD EFFORT. The AP (9/14, Neergaard) reports that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will begin mailing Medicare beneficiaries new cards in April that do not include social security numbers as part of an effort to fight identity theft. Seema Verma explained that "criminals are increasingly targeting people age 65 and older for medical identity theft." Congress has set an April 2019 deadline for all beneficiaries to have received the new design – which was revealed Thursday.

NPR (9/14, Kodjak, 2.4M) reports that instead of social security numbers, the new cards will have "a randomly generated sequence of 11 numbers and letters." The AARP has long advocated for the change and recommends to seniors "not to carry their original Medicare card but only a copy with the last four digits of their Social Security number blotted out." Congress has allocated \$242 million for the update.

The Washington Times (9/14, Howell, 541K) reports that the new cards will go out to all 58 million Medicare enrollees by 2019. The piece quotes CMS Administrator Seema Verma as saying, "This is going to help our beneficiaries fight identify theft, keep taxpayer dollars safe and always keep the needs of patients first."

The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review (9/14, 236K) also covers the story.

GOTTLIEB: FDA IS FOCUSED ON BOOSTING COMPETITION TO ADDRESS DRUG PRICES.<u>Politico</u> (9/14, Diamond, 3.6M) reports FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb told Politico's Pro Policy Summit on Thursday that his agency is focused on increasing pharmaceutical competition to reduce drug prices. Gottlieb said, "We think about it from the standpoint of competition, trying to facilitate competition," noting that the FDA is targeting generic drugs as away to address cost and access issues. He added that the agency has focused on increasing competition for a while, but is now working on being more transparent about those internal deliberations.

FDA APPROVES BIOSIMILAR VERSION OF BEVACIZUMAB. Reuters (9/14, Clarke) reports that yesterday, the FDA "said...it has approved" a "biosimilar version of" Avastin (bevacizumab).

The <u>San Francisco Business Times</u> (9/14, Leuty, Subscription Publication, 904K) reports that in a press release, FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb said, "Bringing new biosimilars to patients, especially for diseases where the cost of existing treatments can be high, is an important way to help spur competition that can lower health care costs and increase access to important therapies."

<u>Medscape</u> (9/14, Chustecka, 226K) reports, "Like the reference product, the biosimilar bevacizumab is approved for use in several types of cancer, including metastatic colorectal cancer, non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), renal cell carcinoma, cervical cancer, and glioblastoma."

FDA APPROVES COPANLISIB TO TREAT FOLLICULAR LYMPHOMA. Reuters (9/14, Clarke) reports that the Food and Drug Administration approved Bayer AG's Aliqopa (copanlisib) for the treatment of follicular lymphoma. The drug is "a kinase inhibitor that blocks certain enzymes that promote cell growth" and is "designed for patients who have received at least two prior treatments." The agency granted accelerated approval based upon a clinical trial in which 59 percent of patients "experienced a complete or partial shrinkage of their tumors for a median 12.2 months."

MedPage Today (9/14, Gever, 60K) reports that Richard Pazdur, MD, acting director of the Office of Hematology and Oncology Products in the FDA's drugs division, said, "Options are limited for [relapsed] patients and today's approval provides an additional choice for treatment, filling an unmet need for them."



PAULSEN: FDA NEEDS TO BE MODERNIZED. Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-MN) writes in The Hill (9/14, 1.68M) that the FDA is in need of modernization. The scope of the agency "has grown considerably in recent decades, with the agency having jurisdiction over a vast spectrum of products" ranging from vaccines and prescription drugs, to sunscreen and tobacco products. A key area in need of reform is the "current timeline surrounding prescription drug and vaccine approvals." Paulsen warns that "bureaucratic delays in the approval process can have tragic consequences." Additionally, the approval process for generic medications comes "at far too slow of a pace under current practices." Paulsen advocates for a "policy of reciprocity approval with 'A-list' foreign counterparts" and granting more "accelerated approvals" for "serious or life-threatening" diseases for which there is an "unmet medical need." Paulsen also writes that he opposes funding cuts to the NIH, but recognize "there are significant ways to better prioritize how research dollars are spent."

FDA APPROVES APP TO TREAT SUBSTANCE ABUSE. CNBC (9/14, McCann, 3.48M) reports the FDA on Thursday approved for the first time a "mobile to help treat substance abuse disorders." Start-up company Pear Therapeutics developed the app, which "digitizes...cognitive behavioral therapy" and "is designed to be prescribed by clinician and used alongside counseling."

<u>Fortune</u> (9/14, Mukherjee, 1.51M) reports the "Reset" app is "cleared to assist in outpatient therapy for alcohol, cocaine, marijuana, and stimulant addiction," but "is notably not permitted for treating opioid dependence." According to the article, clinical studies showed "more than 40% of patients who used the Reset system in addition to standard therapy abstained from alcohol, cocaine, marijuana, and stimulant substance abuse over a three month period," versus only 17.6% of those receiving "standard therapy alone."

<u>HealthDay</u> (9/14, Roberts, 11K) reports Carlos Peña, Ph.D., director of the FDA's Division of Neurological and Physical Medicine Devices, said the app "is an example of how innovative digital technologies can help provide patients access to additional tools during their treatment." The article also mentions that the FDA, citing SAMHSA, defines substance abuse disorder as when chronic substance use causes "significant impairment, such as health problems, disability and failure to meet major responsibilities at work, school or home."

NEW PRODUCT CLAIMS IT MAY REDUCE PEANUT ALLERGIES IN INFANTS. The New York Times (9/14, Rabin, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) "Well" reports a new powered peanut product, called Hello. Peanut, "is the first food item allowed to claim it may reduce peanut allergies in infants, though parents of susceptible babies are urged to consult a doctor before trying it." The FDA allowed the product "to make the claim just months after the nation's top allergy experts reversed longstanding advice on preventing peanut allergies, dropping recommendations to withhold all peanut-containing foods in early childhood in favor of early, frequent exposure." Officials said this is the first time a food product label is allowed to make a "qualified claim that it reduces the risk of an allergy." FDA Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb said, "The guidelines for how to approach allergens in children are changing, the science is changing, and it's important for parents to know." The availability of these products "should make it easier for parents to implement the new approach to preventing peanut allergies, which have increased in prevalence in recent years." Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said, "People who don't have children with these allergies don't always appreciate the very real danger of a deleterious event that might even lead to death, but even more important, the extraordinary anxiety that pervades the families of children with documented peanut allergies who are afraid of exposing their children."

HOUSE \$1.2 TRILLION SPENDING BILL ADDS \$9 BILLION IN NIH FUNDING. The AP (9/14, Taylor) reports the House of Representatives on Thursday "passed a sweeping \$1.2 trillion spending bill that provides billions more dollars for the military while sparing medical research and popular community development programs from deep cuts sought by President Donald Trump." Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) said, "It does everything from strengthening our national defense



and veterans' programs to cracking down on illegal immigration to protecting life to cutting abusive Washington agencies like the IRS and the EPA." The bill adds nearly \$9 billion to Trump's funding request for medical research at the National Institutes of Health, "rather than accepting sharp cuts recommended by Trump." Science Magazine (9/14, Malakoff, 399K) also covers the story.

DOGS PARTICIPATING IN CLINICAL TRIALS OF IMMUNO-ONCOLOGY TREATMENTS.

Forbes (9/14, Weintraub, 5.11M) contributor Arlene Weintraub reports that the "idea of involving pets that develop cancer naturally in clinical trials of new treatments is gaining stream in cancer research." Domesticated cats and dogs "develop many of the same cancers people do," so they offer an "opportunity to preview immune-boosting treatments in species that are very much like us, both in their genetic makeup and in how they experience cancer." The National Cancer Institute supports this research, "and last year it solicited funding applications from scientists interested in performing clinical trials of immuno-oncology treatments in dogs."

IMMUNOTHERAPY TRIALS INCREASED IN POPULARITY SINCE "FALSE DAWN" OF IL-2. The Economist (9/15, 846K) reports that the discovery of interleukin 2 (IL-2) in 1976 was a "false dawn" in immunotherapy because "it activated the immune system indiscriminately, and the immune system is a powerful beast." Elad Sharon, at the National Cancer Institute's division of treatment and diagnosis, said the effects were "toxic and messy, and frequently sent patients to the ICU." Immunotherapy was "in exile" for many years, but in 1999, "Tasuku Honjo of the University of Kyoto, in Japan, showed that the gene for a protein called PD-1 also seemed to tamp down the immune system." Later evidence would suggest that "checkpoint inhibitors could also get results with lung cancers, which are a much bigger killer than, and thus represent a much larger market than, malignant melanomas." The field of immunotherapy is still new, but "it has already radically shifted the treatment and research landscape."

CURRENT ANTI-CANCER TECHNOLOGY EVOLVING TO BETTER TREAT PATIENTS. The Economist (9/14, 846K) reports on how anti-cancer technology has evolved to better treat patients. Locating targets for cancer therapies "has been made far easier by the sequencing of the human genome and the remarkable reductions in the cost of sequencing DNA which followed on from it." According to The Economist, "hundreds of thousands of cancers have now been sequenced, and the hunt for targets is seeing diminishing returns." Much work is now "focused not on finding new targets but on second-generation drugs aimed at targets that have already proved vulnerable; these newer drugs aim for higher efficacy, lower side effects or, ideally, both." Louis Staudt, director of the center for cancer genomics at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) "says about 1-3% of cases of lung cancer are driven by a ROS1 mutation. Dr Staudt is working on a repository for genomic information called the NCI Genomic Data Commons, which hopes to identify more low-frequency drivers of cancer."

PROBLEM DRINKING RISING FAST AMONG OLDER AMERICANS, NIAAA RESEARCHERS FIND. In the New York Times (9/14, Span, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) "The New Old Age" blog, Paula Span writes, "Epidemiologists at the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism...reported" that "problem drinking is rising fast among older Americans." Researchers arrived at that conclusion after comparing "data from a national survey taken in 2001 and 2002 and again in 2012 and 2013, each time with about 40,000 adults." The findings were published in the September issue of JAMA Psychiatry. The author of an accompanying editorial observed, "The trajectory over time is remarkable." Lead study author and NIAAA epidemiologist Bridget Grant, PhD, and her "team didn't investigate causes" for late-life drinking, "but she speculates that anxiety caused by the recession, which hit right between the two surveys, may have played a part."

CDC DIRECTOR WARNS OF POST-HURRICANE DANGERS. The AP (9/14) reports that US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Brenda Fitzgerald warns "the aftermath of disasters such as Hurricanes Harvey and Irma can be just as dangerous as the storms themselves." The article describes several of the greatest post-storm dangers, including "heat



and humidity," electrocution, and "debris removal and cleanup hazards."

REDUCTION IN HHS, CMS HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETING BUDGETS WILL IMPACT NORTH TEXAS HEALTHCARE GROUPS. The D Healthcare Daily (TX) (9/14, Nguyen) reports that in response to HHS and CMS announcing reductions in their health-insurance marketing budgets, "Dallas-Fort Worth healthcare groups say the cuts will directly impact the North Texas market, as marketing and patient navigation organizations are affected by funding reductions." W. Steve Love, president and CEO of the DFW Hospital Council, called the decision "shocking and disappointing." He added, "Locally, we have been fortunate to have community-based patient navigators in Dallas, Tarrant, and surrounding counties. The hospitals also have patient navigators to [help] eligible beneficiaries enroll in the health insurance marketplace." Love said he hopes HHS will reverse the funding reductions.

AHRQ, PCORI TO AWARD GRANTS FOR LEARNING HEALTH SYSTEM TRAINING AND RESEARCH. EHR Intelligence (9/14, Monica) reports that the Agency of Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) are partnering "to award grants of up to \$8 million" to "as many as ten" career development programs "for training clinician and research scientists to conduct research about learning health systems." In a statement on the National Institute of Health (NIH) website, AHRQ said, "The Learning Health System is a model in which both institutional and clinical practice partners are actively engaged and participate in the generation, adoption, and application of evidence."

Health Reform:

TRUMP CRITICIZES SANDERS' SINGLE-PAYER PROPOSAL, CALLS IT "A CURSE ON THE US." TIME (9/14, Abrams, 5.85M) reports that on Thursday, President Trump "attacked Bernie Sanders' single-player health care plan on Thursday, calling it a 'curse on the U.S." Trump tweeted, "Bernie Sanders is pushing hard for a single payer healthcare plan – a curse on the U.S. & its people. ... I told Republicans to approve healthcare fast or this would happen. But don't worry, I will veto because I love our country & its people." The article says Sanders responded to the tweets, "saying that single-payer health care is what he believes the government should be doing," and he criticized a GOP ACA repeal plan "from earlier this year that would have cut costs and caused millions to lose their health insurance."

<u>USA Today</u> (9/14, Estepa, 8.62M) reports that President Trump will "never get the chance to veto the bill, because it's never going to reach his desk during this current session of Congress."

The Hill (9/14, Carter, 1.68M) reports that Sanders tweeted in response to Trump, "No Mr. President, providing health care to every man, woman and child as a right is not a curse, it's exactly what we should be doing." He added, "What is a curse is your support for throwing 23 million off health insurance. That's the curse and we won't allow you to get away with it."

<u>Politico</u> (9/14, 3.6M) reports that Trump is still urging Republicans to repeal and replace the ACA, even though they "have spent months trying and failing to pass such legislation."

The Hill (9/14, Hellmann, 1.68M) reports that Sanders unveiled his "Medicare for All" plan on Wednesday "with the support of 16 Senate Democrats, more support than he's ever received for single-payer bills he has proposed in the past."

NBC News (9/14, Seitz-Wald, 3.46M) reports on its website that Trump's "veto threat is aimed at raising the profile of Sanders and his movement to use them against more moderate Democrats, especially those...running for re-election in states Trump won next year."

The Washington Examiner (9/14, Giaritelli, 465K) and the Los Angeles Times (9/14, Decker, 4.49M) also cover the story.



TRUMP SAYS MCCAIN'S VOTE AGAINST THE SENATE'S ACA REPEAL BILL LED TO SANDERS' SINGLE-PAYER PROPOSAL. U.S. News & World Report (9/14, Levy, 1.73M) says President Trump "blamed the new momentum among Democrats to push for a single-payer health care system on one man": Sen. John McCain (R-AZ). The article says Trump accused McCain of causing "a split in the Republican party's resolve to repeal the Affordable Care Act when he voted against a plan to repeal parts of the health care law." Trump is quoted as saying on Thursday, "We had a surprise from John McCain, and we had the vote and then John McCain came out of nowhere. … It was a very unpleasant surprise, and now what are we looking at? We have people now talking about single-payer, and that's what we get."

The Washington Times (9/14, Miller, 541K) reports that Trump "still holds a grudge against" McCain because of the senator's vote against Senate Republicans' ACA repeal bill.

GRAHAM URGES TRUMP TO FOCUS ON ACA REPEAL AHEAD OF RECONCILIATION DEADLINE. Politico (9/14, Nelson, 3.6M) reports Sen. Lindsey Graham said yesterday that President Trump's "attention should be on repealing and replacing Obamacare, not forging a deal with Democrats on immigration and border security," because "time is quickly running out for Republicans to make good on their long-held pledge to" repeal the ACA. Politico adds that "because of the Senate's parliamentary rules regarding reconciliation...GOP senators have only until the end of the month to pass repeal-and-replace legislation with a simple majority of 51 votes." After that, "any repeal and replace bill would be forced to clear the Senate's typical 60-vote threshold, an all but impossible ask." Graham and Sen. Bill Cassidy have "proposed a last-ditch repeal-and-replace bill that would block grant all of the money spent by the federal government on Obamacare back to the states."

Cassidy was asked on MSNBC's Morning Joe (9/14, 983K) what he would like the President to do to help advance his healthcare bill. Cassidy said, "We need, obviously, the CBO to score more rapidly, and we will be speaking to our individual senators to get on board the bill. We've already begun those discussions, very promising. And we need governors. ... The President can help with all that."

SEN. BARRASSO WANTS CBO TO SCORE SANDERS' "MEDICARE FOR ALL" PROPOSAL. The Hill (9/14, Roubein, 1.68M) reports that Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY) wants the Congressional Budget Office "to analyze the cost of Sen. Bernie Sanders' (I-Vt.) 'Medicare for all' bill, which could fuel Republican attacks that a single-payer system would bankrupt the country." Barrasso wrote to the CBO, saying he is "deeply concerned that Senator Sanders' Medicare-for-All legislation is not only a government takeover of health care, but would also put financial burdens on the American people that they cannot sustain." He mentioned a 2016 estimate by the Urban Institute which indicated "a previous plan from Sanders would cost \$32 trillion over 10 years."

The <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/14, Leonard, 465K) reports that Barrasso also said in his letter that Sanders' single-payer proposal "is being sold as a new health system paid for completely by the government, with no restrictions and at no cost to the patient. ... Of course, such a system would be anything but free to the American taxpayer."

GROWING SUPPORT FOR SINGLE-PAYER AMONG DEMS SHOWS SANDERS' INFLUENCE IN THE PARTY. Roll Call (9/14, Williams, 134K) reports, "The seismic shift in support for Sen. Bernie Sanders' plan to transform the U.S. health care system into a single-payer program" demonstrates the influence Sanders has in the Democratic Party. The article says Sanders is attempting to define the party's future, and his bill is supported by several "2020 Democratic presidential hopefuls." The piece adds that the proposal has "also provided a welcome talking point for Republicans who have long railed against government-run health care."

SANDERS REPORTEDLY FAILS TO EXPLAIN HOW HIS SINGLE-PAYER PLAN WILL BE FUNDED. Vann R. Newkirk II writes in The Atlantic (9/14, 1.64M) that support for Sanders' bill "is unprecedented, both in the scope – it would in essence nationalize one-sixth of the largest



economy in world history – and in seriousness." While "the initiative is almost certainly doomed over the course of the next few iterations of Congress, it's now a rallying point, one its creators and sponsors aim to make the center of Democratic policymaking for years to come." Newkirk points out, however, that Sanders failed to explain precisely how the bill will be funded, which is crucial. He argues that "while relegating the less sexy, and much more controversial funding elements to the background is perhaps politically pragmatic, putting it off can only hurt the policy in the long run."

ANALYSIS: AMERICANS ARE "AMBIVALENT" ABOUT SINGLE-PAYER, NOT "CLAMORING" FOR IT AS SANDERS CONTENDS. In an analysis piece, the AP (9/14, Woodward, Swanson) reports that consumers "are not clamoring for single-payer health care, as Sen. Bernie Sanders suggests they are, in proposing a plan that would have the government foot most medical bills." The article says that while support for single-payer has grown markedly, polls indicate that "the prevailing sentiment is ambivalence." That is because while the prospect of saving money on healthcare costs is attractive, raising taxes "to cover those costs may dull the appetite."

David Weigel writes in the <u>Washington Post</u> (9/14, Weigel, 10.38M) "Power Post" blog that Sanders has enlisted Canadians to his cause and invited Danielle Martin, a Toronto physician and academic, to his podcast for a 32-minute interview. The piece quotes Sanders' push for his single-payer plan: "For decades, every man, woman and child in Canada has been guaranteed health care through a single-payer, publicly funded health care program" which has "not only improved the lives of the Canadian people but has also saved families and businesses an immense amount of money."

NUMBER OF UNINSURED VETERANS WOULD INCREASE IF ACA WERE REPEALED, STUDY INDICATES. Stars And Stripes (9/14, Wentling, 8K) reports that according to the Rand Corp., the American Health Care Act, which House Republicans passed in May, "would increase the number of aging, sick and low-income veterans without insurance and put pressure on an overburdened Veterans Affairs system." Data show 9.1 percent of veterans under the age of 65 were uninsured in 2013. That figure dropped to 5.8 percent in 2015, thanks to Medicaid expansion under the ACA. The study concluded that repealing the ACA "would reverse those gains."

HEALTHCARE DEBATE BECOMES PART OF BALDWIN'S BID FOR RE-ELECTION NEXT YEAR. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (9/14, Glauber, 628K) reports that Sen. Tammy Baldwin's (D-WI) "embrace this week of 'Medicare for All' drew immediate criticism from her" GOP challengers, businessman Kevin Nicholson (R) and state Sen. Leah Vukmir (R). However, Nicholson "may discover that in next year's Republican primary, the health care debate could cut both ways. Seventeen years ago, Nicholson was president of the College Democrats of America" at a time when the national party "passed a...platform that included a section supporting universal health coverage." The paper says that Nicholson and Vukmir have done some mild sparring over "conservative credentials" in the GOP race.

CUTS TO OUTREACH EFFORTS MAY IMPACT LOW-INCOME IOWANS WHO PURCHASE ACA PLANS. The Cedar Rapids (IA) Gazette (9/14, Murphy, 147K) reports that the Trump Administration recently said it would significantly cut funding "for advertising and staffing designated to help individuals sign up for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act...saying previous funding levels were extraneous." This means low-income lowans who purchase individual plans through the ACA exchange "may not have as much help as in recent years, health care officials and experts warn." The article says local healthcare officials are worried "the reduction will hamper efforts to reach low-income lowans who wish to obtain health insurance under the federal program, or to educate those who may not be aware they are eligible for the program and its financial assistance."

ACA HAD SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON NUMBER OF INSURED, CENSUS DATA INDICATE.



The Washington Post (9/14, Bump, 10.38M) reports that according to data from the Census Bureau, the US uninsured rate was 8.6 percent in 2016. That figure was 14.5 percent in 2013, which means last year's rate represents a 40 percent decline. The article says this means some 19 million Americans have gained access to healthcare coverage. However, there are significant differences "between those states that took advantage of the ACA's expansion of Medicaid and those that didn't." Typically, "states that expanded Medicaid at the outset now have an uninsured rate of about 6.1 percent, a decline of 5.9 percentage points since 2013." By comparison, more than 10 percent of the population is uninsured in states which did not expand Medicaid.

SINGLE-PAYER PLAN SIMILAR TO SANDERS' "FAILED...REALLY BADLY" IN COLORADO. Dylan Matthews writes in a Vox (9/14, 1.54M) piece that last November, Colorado voters "rejected a ballot measure to enact a state-based single-payer system by an astounding margin of 79 percent to 21 percent." The measure, Amendment 69, "would have created a system in which all Coloradans would gain insurance through a tax-funded government insurance program," thus rendering private health insurers obsolete. Matthews adds that Sen. Bernie Sanders' "Medicare for All" proposal is similar to Amendment 69, which "failed – really, really, really badly."

SENATE HELP COMMITTEE HOPES TO COMPLETE ACA STABILIZATION MEASURE BY EARLY NEXT WEEK. The Hill (9/14, Roubein, 1.68M) reports the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee "intends to craft a bipartisan bill to stabilize the insurance markets by early next week, enabling the full Senate to pass it by the end of the month," according to chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN). The article says Alexander announced this goal on Thursday during the committee's fourth hearing about how to stabilize ACA marketplaces. The piece adds that the bill is likely to include funding for cost-sharing reduction payments, more flexibility for states, and increased access to lower-cost plans.

The <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/14, Leonard, 465K) reports that according to Alexander, "appropriating funds to insurers to help ease the cost of Obamacare premiums was a reasonable tradeoff for a bill that would give states flexibility." He stated, "To get a result, Republicans will have to agree to do something, additional funding through the Affordable Care Act, that some are reluctant to support. And Democrats will have to agree to something, more flexibility for states, that some may be reluctant to support."

<u>Modern Healthcare</u> (9/14, Meyer, Subscription Publication, 238K) reports that Alexander did not mention adding a new reinsurance program in his comments, adding that GOP conservatives "strongly oppose" such a measure.

SOME DEMS WILLING TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES TO ACA'S INDIVIDUAL MANDATE. Morning Consult (9/14, Reid) reports some Democrats "are willing to look at alternatives to the mandate that requires most Americans to obtain health insurance or pay a penalty." The article says there is "some Republican support" for those alternatives. The piece adds that Sens. Claire McCaskill (D-MO) and Tim Kaine (D-VA) "have expressed interest in automatically enrolling uninsured Americans in a low-cost insurance plan, a proposal that was included in one Republican plan to repeal Obamacare earlier this year." Meanwhile, "10 moderate House Democrats raised auto-enrollment as a potential tool to increase coverage and stabilize the Obamacare exchanges in a health care proposal released in July."

BIPARTISAN GROUP OF SENATORS WORKING ON ACA STABILIZATION BILL STILL AT ODDS. The Washington Examiner (9/14, Leonard, 465K) reports Senate HELP committee members hope "to ease rising premiums and insurer exits from Obamacare in the face of a tight deadline," but "they aren't certain if Senate leaders will up take the proposal in time or if it would receive a warm welcome in the House or from President Trump." The article says the lawmakers are also "divided in their goals: Democrats want to inject more funding into the exchanges so that premiums will drop, while Republicans seek to give states more flexibility over their healthcare systems." The panel's chairman, Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN), "said he hopes that committee members can agree to the trade-off as a compromise."



OP-ED SAYS INSURERS MAY BE WILLING TO COMPROMISE WITH SANDERS ON SINGLE-PAYER. Contributor Bruce Japsen writes in a Forbes (9/14, 5.11M) piece that the largest insurance companies in the US "don't want to see their role diminished as a manager of health benefits for seniors and therefore oppose Bernie Sanders 'Medicare for All' single payer health plan." However, Japsen adds that the companies seem "open to offering the liberal Vermont Senator a path to expanding coverage if it involves bolstering private Medicare Advantage plans, which insurers sell to seniors via contracts with the federal government."

SPONSORS OF LATEST ACA REPEAL BILL SEEK TO GARNER SUPPORT AMONG COLLEAGUES. The Washington Examiner (9/14, King, 465K) reports that Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Dean Heller (R-NV), and Ron Johnson (R-WI) "are working to convince their colleagues to support their last-ditch effort to gut Obamacare." They "met with the Republican conference Thursday as part of a luncheon." The article says this event "is among a series of opening moves the senators are making to muster support from 46 other Republicans before a deadline at the end of the month."

REP. LOUIE GOHMERT PUSHING SENATORS TO PASS ACA REPEAL BILL BEFORE MONTH'S END. The Washington Examiner (9/14, Kasperowicz, 465K) reports that Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-TX) "said he and other Republicans will pressure the Senate to pass some kind of Obamacare repeal bill before the end of the month, before the Senate loses its chance to pass a bill with just a simple majority, without help from Democrats." The lawmaker "said House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., is also interested in putting pressure on the Senate when they return" from a one-week recess.

SENATOR GOP WHIPPING SUPPORT FOR GRAHAM-CASSIDY ACA REPEAL BILL. The Hill (9/14, Carney, 1.68M) reports in its "Floor Action" blog that Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas) is measuring support for a new bill by Sens. Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy "to repeal and replace ObamaCare as lawmakers head toward an end-of-the-month deadline." When asked about the vote counting, Cornyn said, "...my hope is we'll get that preliminary information back in the next few days."

NEW MEXICO OFFICIALS SAY STATE INSURANCE MARKET HAS STABILIZED. Santa Fe New Mexican (9/14, Krasnow, 42K) reports that according to New Mexico Superintendent of Insurance John Franchini, health insurance rates on the state's Affordable Care Act are set to rise between 17 percent and 20 percent and will be finalized Friday. Franchini said the state insurance market has stabilized as four insurance providers will be offering plans in 2018, despite federal policy uncertainties.

SOUTH CAROLINA INSURANCE CHIEF URGES CONGRESS TO FUND CSR PAYMENTS. The Charleston (SC) Post and Courier (9/14, Wildeman, 269K) reports South Carolina Department of Insurance Director Ray Farmer testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions on Thursday, "urg[ing] U.S. senators to continue funding payments to make insurance more affordable for those buying on the private market." Farmer, a critic of the Affordable Care Act, encouraged Congress to renew the cost-sharing reduction program, saying it is, "The best option is for the federal government to pay its obligations under

COMMENTARY CONSIDERS HEALTH REFORM. Numerous outlets offer opinions on health reform.

Paul Krugman writes in his New York Times (9/15, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) column that President Trump wants Congress to quickly pass a tax reform plan, but he has not offered them a proposal. Krugman says, "The story of tax reform – actually, given the likely content of whatever legislative proposal may finally emerge, we should call it tax 'reform' – is starting to look a bit similar" to the ACA one. He argues that Republicans were dishonest about the ACA, and that



law."

allowed them to gain control of both chambers of Congress and the White House, but when "the public realized that tens of millions would lose coverage under Republican plans, there was a huge backlash; that backlash may give Democrats the House next year, despite all the gerrymandering and other structural disadvantages they face."

Tom Toles writes in The Washington Post (9/14, 10.38M) that despite multiple attempts by Republicans to stop the Affordable Care Act, the dynamic that "health care as a citizen right has taken root in the United States." The GOP is "caught in a trap" of either working to "fix and extend Obamacare, which they as yet show no signs of doing, or let it fail and demolish coverage that people want and now expect – leaving single-payer as the clear, understandable, popular alternative."

Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D) writes in the <u>Washington Post</u> (9/14, 10.38M) that the Trump Administration "continues to sabotage the Affordable Care Act by refusing to guarantee the cost-sharing reduction (CSR) payments that insurers rely upon to offset lost revenue from providing subsidies to low-income individuals." This antagonistic attitude furthers the instability in the insurance markets, which in turn will be "felt by thousands of Virginians."

Jennifer Rubin writes for the <u>Washington Post</u> (9/14, 10.38M) in its "Right Turn" blog warning against letting Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) "pull the wool over the eyes of Democrats the way Trump snookered the whole country" on promises of "wonderful" healthcare. Rubin cites Jonathan Chait who warns, "Designing a single-payer system means not only covering the uninsured, but financing the cost of moving the 155 million Americans who have employer-based insurance onto Medicare. That is not a detail to be worked out. It is the entire problem."

Catherine Rampell writes for the <u>Washington Post</u> (9/14, 10.38M) that in their push for single-payer healthcare, Democrats will "abandon thoughtful, detail-oriented bean-counting" and instead "chant virtue-signaling catchphrases." Sen. Bernie Sanders' "Medicare for All" bill had 16 co-sponsors who "had to sign on" as single-payer "is rapidly evolving into a litmus test for Democrats." More than a catch phrase, Rampell writes that shifting to single-payer "involves painful political choices, sharp tax hikes and some degree of buy-in from the many stakeholders who are going to get shafted in the transition." On this and other major questions, Rampell says "the Sanders plan punts."

Eugene Robinson writes for the <u>Washington Post</u> (9/14, 10.38M) that what Bernie Sanders' "Medicare for all" idea has going for it is that "It's the right thing to do." Robinson writes that the question now "is whether Democrats will continue to settle for half-measures or finally demand what the party has claimed to want for decades."

The <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (9/14, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) editorializes on the ACA replacement bill unveiled this week by Sens. Graham and Sen. Cassidy. The Journal says that Graham-Cassidy is not an ideal solution to the country's healthcare problems, but concludes it does signify progress toward undoing the ACA. Moreover, the Journal warns Republicans that if they miss this opportunity to repeal Obamacare, their voters will remember in 2018.

In an editorial, <u>Bloomberg View</u> (9/14, 4.52M) writes that Democrats have an opening to "advance ideas for building on the gains accomplished by the Affordable Care Act," but Sen. Bernie Sanders' [I-VT] proposed single-payer system "is unwise both on the merits and as a matter of political strategy." Bloomberg View calls Sanders' proposal "needlessly radical," and instead argues that "a better way to extend health insurance to 28.1 million Americans who still need it is to take incremental steps – starting with the bipartisan effort to shore up the ACA now under way in the Senate."

Writing in the Washington Examiner (9/14, 465K), Philip Klein dismisses Sen. Bernie Sanders' single-payer proposal as "a complete joke" that does not "describe how he would expect to pay for this ambitious idea or deal with massive disruption it would mean for businesses, workers, and



those trying to access care." Klein says that if "Sanders wanted to demonstrate that single-payer is closer to reality, he would have grappled with the real obstacles to his vision," instead of releasing a bill "that is nothing more than liberal fan service."

Matthew Yglesias writes in Vox (9/14, 1.54M) that Medicare-for-all legislation is deliberately a "very high bid" that is "unlikely to be enacted by any realistic political coalition." But, while the "roadblocks to a single-payer health care system are very large," Yglesias says they are "fundamentally different from" the GOP push to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, because the latter is a "con job" that attempted to "bridge a fundamentally unbridgeable gap between the American people's complaints about the ACA – premiums, deductibles, and copayments that were too high – and the Republican Party donor class's complaints about the ACA: that it levied too much in taxes."

Newt Gingrich and Tom Daschle write in The Hill (9/14, 1.68M) that Section 1332 waivers give states flexibility to bypass some of the ACA's "requirements and to help develop localized ways to lower health-care costs, broaden coverage and improve treatment in their states." The former Congressional leaders say that "expanding this flexibility...could be the key to unlocking some of the partisan gridlock surrounding health-care reform."

Dr. Deane Waldman and Jennifer Minjarez, the director and a policy analyst with the Center for Health Care Policy at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, write in <u>The Hill</u> (9/14, 1.68M) that that states can apply for three waivers to "get relief from ObamaCare's expensive mandates." They argue that in "the absence of effective national healthcare reform, reform at the state level with waivers can circumvent oppressive federal mandates and allow the states, who know local needs and constraints best, to allocate resources optimally."

Paige Winfield Cunningham writes in The Washington Post (9/14, 10.38M) "The Health 202" that US lawmakers do not seem "especially interested in borrowing from the range of" healthcare approaches "taken by other countries like, say, France, Japan or the Netherlands, which have achieved near-universal health coverage and whose systems enjoy much greater public favor." Republicans are instead focusing on "repealing the Affordable Care Act and replacing it with bills that would cover far fewer people and are deeply unpopular," while Democrats support single-payer plans "that Republican will surely block."

The <u>Huffington Post</u> (9/14, 5.74M) contributor Richard Eskow writes that when nearly one-third of Senate Democrats "are saying health care is a human right and a public good," it is "a declaration of principle." Eskow says Medicare for All is symbolic of all "health activism fronts, and all of them can be perused with a single, unifying goal in mind."

Michael Tanner writes for the <u>New York Post</u> (9/14, 4.31M) that Sen. Bernie Sanders' "Medicare for All" a single-payer plan "would put government firmly in charge" of healthcare. The plan is "long on promises," but "independent analysts suggest it will cost at least \$1.4 trillion per year" and "most Americans will be worse off" from tax hikes and job losses, Tanner writes.

Jonathan Bernstein writes for <u>Bloomberg View</u> (9/14, 4.52M) that Sen. Bernie Sanders single-payer health care plan has "few details and only vague ideas about financing," but it is nonetheless changing the Democratic Party. Sanders' bill and the support it has drawn "is best seen as a part of that ever-continuing fight over what the party will really stand for," and single-payer "has a lot of work ahead to be more than a rallying cry, the only way it's going to get that work is if it's a party priority."

Dr. Sanjeev K. Sriram writes for the <u>Huffington Post</u> (9/14, 5.74M) lamenting racial and geographic disparities in insurance coverage. "Medicare For All" would mean "peace of mind" and that "we are finally committing to health care as a basic human right, no matter what you earn, no matter where you live, and no matter what you look like."



Kevin Campbell writes for the <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/14, 465K) that with "reimbursement cuts are on the horizon," the medical lobby, including the American Medical Association, is "playing a big role yet again in determining healthcare policy and payments to physicians." The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the AMA "often overlook compelling outcome and economic data," Campbell writes, criticizing potential reimbursement rate cuts to cardiovascular medical devices.

The Raleigh (NC) News & Observer (9/14, 381K) editorializes that President Trump and Republicans "failed to come up with a viable plan to repeal and replace the ACA, and some seemed to lose their enthusiasm for the misguided crusade after their efforts fell short." The latest repeal bill "seems little more than one more desperate attempt on the part of Republicans to do away with Obamacare, which they despise for its success."

Greg Bell writes for the <u>Deseret (UT) News</u> (9/14, 381K) that Republicans in Congress "fumbled repeal and replace in spectacular fashion" as they "had not developed an alternative." Bell faults Congressional Republicans for "not hold[ing] the mounting deficit up to the nation as an essential reason to undo Obamacare entitlements."

Opioid News:

OPINION: PHYSICIANS CONTRIBUTED TO, NOW NEED TO HELP REVERSE, THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC. Dr. Peter Pronovost, an anesthesiologist and Johns Hopkins Medicine senior vice president, writes in the <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (9/14, Pronovost, 6.45M) that over-prescription by physicians for postsurgical recovery and pain, combined with unused opioid pills, contributed to the opioid epidemic. Dr. Pronovost suggests physicians take a more precise approach to prescribing medications for pain which may include avoiding opioids altogether or lowering the number of pills prescribed. He also urges physicians to counsel patients on proper disposal of unused pills.

PROSECUTORS SAY INSYS FOUNDER IS AN UNINDICTED CO-CONSPIRATOR IN OPIOID CASE. Reuters (9/14, Raymond) reports that court documents reveal federal prosecutors have identified Insys Therapeutics Inc.'s billionaire founder, John Kapoor, as one of 80 "unindicted co-conspirators" in their case against six former executives and managers accused of participating in a scheme of bribing physicians to prescribe their fentanyl-based drug. Kapoor's attorney responded that his client has not been charged and that "he's made extensive efforts to improve the situation at the company." The defendants have pleaded not guilty and the trial is scheduled to begin in October 2018.

INDIANA BEGINS DATA COLLECTION, SHARING INITIATIVE TO COMBAT OPIOID CRISIS. Wired (9/14, Lapowsky, 1.62M) reports Indiana, which has been impacted "hard" by the opioid crisis and "was among a handful of states whose opioid prescriptions roughly equaled its population," recently launched an online opioid data center for law enforcement and medical services to collaborate in sharing data and assist policymakers in understanding the scope of the crisis. Gov. Eric Holcomb (R) has pushed the initiative, which features information including statistics on "drug arrests, drug seizures, death records, pharmacy robberies, overdose-related ambulance calls, and the use of naloxone," as well as the implementation of "data-visualization tools...so agencies providing the data can log in and observe trends over time." The program includes about 16 government agencies. Donald Burke, dean of the Graduate School of Public Health at University of Pittsburgh who commented on the initiative, "says funding for the federal agencies that sponsor this kind of research – the National Institute of Drug Abuse, the Drug Enforcement Agency, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration – has fallen over the last decade."

Healthcare Fraud:



OPINION: MEDICAID AGENCIES NOT DOING ENOUGH TO STOP FRAUD. James Swann writes on the <u>Bloomberg BNA</u> (9/14, 2K) "Health Care Blog" that according to a recent Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General report, 41 out of 56 Medicaid agencies imposed 10 or fewer payment suspensions in 2014. Swann says that payment suspensions can be "effective in stopping fraudulent Medicaid providers," but having so few allows "money to continue flowing to providers under investigation for potentially defrauding the Medicaid program." Swann quotes Ellyn Sternfield, a Washington, DC, healthcare attorney, as explaining about agencies' conduct, "Most Medicaid fraud investigators I know will bend over backwards not to let a suspect know they are under investigation for a particular practice and will want the program to forgo the suspension during the duration of any investigation."

Healthcare News:

AUTHORITIES CONTINUE INVESTIGATION OF SOUTH FLORIDA NURSING HOME WHERE EIGHT DIED. The <u>Washington Post</u> (9/14, Berman, 10.38M) reports that of the eight residents who died at a Hollywood, Florida nursing home that "lost its air conditioning" in the wake of Hurricane Irma, "at least one of them died Tuesday, several hours before authorities say they were alerted to the crisis...early Wednesday morning." The finding, the Post says, adds to the uncertainty surrounding the facility and how events devolved "to such an extent that several patients died and more than 100 others were" evacuated to hospitals.

<u>USA Today</u> (9/14, Madhani, 8.62M) reports that operators of the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills received repeated admonishments from "state and federal officials for" failing to meet "federally-mandated standards for patient care and for dubious billing practices." The article adds that the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) on Wednesday "announced it was temporarily closing" the nursing home. According to USA Today, the AHCA "cited the nursing home for 11 health deficiencies" in its last inspection and for "17 infractions" in 2016, leading to \$5,500 in fines.

Citing AHCA spokesperson Mallory McManus, the <u>South Florida Sun Sentinel</u> (9/14, McMahon, Bryan, Hobbs, Pesantes, 530K) reports that "despite filing four status updates on Monday and Tuesday, the nursing home never reported to a state health department online database that patients were at risk." McManus said in an email, "At no time did the facility report that conditions had become dangerous."

Reuters (9/14, Oliphant) reports that on Thursday police obtained a search warrant "in their criminal investigation of the deaths." Police "have said little about circumstances "leading to the deaths."

The New York Times (9/14, Reisner, Fink, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that a federal rule prompted by the deaths about 215 people in hospitals and nursing homes in Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, will require that nursing homes have "alternate sources of energy to maintain temperatures to protect resident health and safety." The new rule, which will not be in enforced until November, "does not specifically require backup generators for air-conditioning systems ... and now some are questioning whether the rule should."

The AP (9/14, Reynolds, Spencer) reports that the nursing home exhibited flaws "in maintaining fire and safety standards pertaining to exits and storage areas" and had "more serious problems with its generator maintenance and testing," according to information gleaned from Feb. 2016 AHCA inspection records. The article adds that 64 nursing homes across the state remained without full power Thursday, according to AHCA.

The <u>South Florida Sun Sentinel</u> (9/13, Lade, 530K) reports that Florida does not require nursing homes have a generator, but they are in compliance as long as they have "alternate forms of power," according to AHCA spokeswoman Kristen Knapp. The AHCA said it has notified state regulators of which facilities were without power "so utility companies can prioritize locations with



the greatest need."

The <u>South Florida Business Journal</u> (9/14, Bandell, Subscription Publication, 882K) reports AHCA "placed an immediate moratorium on admissions" to the facility. Additionally, Gov. Scott "said AHCA and the Department of Children and Families would work with local law enforcement to investigate the deaths." The AHCA's moratorium order indicates the facility notified FPL and attempted to place portable fans and coolers around the building after discovering its air conditioning was malfunctioning following Irma's Sept. 10 landfall.

Additional coverage by <u>TIME</u> (9/14, 5.85M), <u>Reuters</u> (9/15), the <u>South Florida Business Journal</u> (9/14, Subscription Publication, 882K), the website of <u>CNN</u> (9/14, Chavez, Ellefson, Nedelman, 33.59M), and the <u>Huffington Post</u> (9/14, Waldron, 5.74M).

HOUSE ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE MAY SEEK NURSING HOME OVERSIGHT FOLLOWING RECENT DEATHS. The Hill (9/14, Weixel, 1.68M) reports that the House Energy and Commerce Committee "may begin looking at oversight of nursing facilities following the deaths of eight people in a Florida nursing home." The committee's chairman, Greg Walden (R-OR) said Thursday, "Some of these nursing home situations are very troubling ... because that's the most vulnerable population. So I think we'll want to get answers to that." The Hill says the committee may look into other post-hurricane issues, such as mosquito-borne diseases, also, and adds that "Walden said he's been in contact with the National Institutes of Health regarding planning for when mosquitoes return."

LONG-TERM CARE INDUSTRY OBJECTED TO COSTS OF 2005 BILL THAT WOULD HAVE MANDATED GENERATORS. The Miami Herald (9/14, Miller, Klascmarbin, 701K) reports that Florida lawmakers proposed a bill after Hurricane Wilma in 2005 "that would have required some nursing homes to have generators to protect frail elders from the ravages of heat and dehydration." However, the bill failed because of "industry opposition and government miserliness." The article extensively references the Florida Health Care Association, noting that spokesperson Kristen Knapp said hospitals in the wake of Hurricane Irma are concerned about staff shortages and generator availability. The article also says that "longtime" AHCA administrator Skip Gregory backed "an industry initiative to include nursing homes among the highest priority customers when electrical utilities deployed to restore service after hurricanes," but utilities including FPL fought against it.

FLORIDA NURSING HOME SAYS IT WAS PREPARED FOR IRMA AS INVESTIGATION CONTINUES. Max Greenwood writes for The Hill (9/14, 1.68M) "Briefing Room" blog that as "federal, state and local officials" investigate eight deaths at a South Florida nursing home, the "home said it was prepared for the hurricane," and "the nursing home's administrator...said staff had stocked seven days' worth of food and were using a power generator." Administrator Jorge Carballo added that the facility is "fully cooperating with all authorities and regulators."

FLORIDA REPRESENTATIVE BLASTS NURSING HOME FOR EVACUATION DELAY. Julia Manchester writes for <u>The Hill</u> (9/14, 1.68M) "Briefing Room" blog that Rep. Frederica Wilson (D-FL) harshly criticized the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills, where eights elderly residents died this week following hurricane-caused power outages. Wilson called the facility's failure to evacuate its residents earlier an "abomination" as "the patients were...mere yards away" from a hospital.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S SUPPORT FOR ARBITRATION AGREEMENTS COULD MAKE IT HARDER TO SUE FLORIDA NURSING HOME. Mark Hand writes for Think Progress (9/14, 60K) that the Trump Administration's support for arbitration agreements in nursing home contracts means "family members of the people who died at the Hollywood, Florida, nursing home are likely prohibited from filing lawsuits or taking legal action against" its owner. The story adds that "the Florida Health Care Association, which represents more than 4 in 5 nursing homes in the state, said it does not represent the Hollywood facility."



SHULKIN OPENS VA'S BEDS TO NURSING HOME RESIDENTS AFFECTED BY IRMA. The Miami Herald (9/14, Neal, 701K) reports that VA Secretary Shulkin announced Thursday that his agency "will open beds to non-Veteran nursing home residents affected by Hurricane Irma." Shulkin's move comes in the wake of "Wednesday's death of eight residents of a Hollywood nursing home steaming without air conditioning." Shulkin said, "We will continue to look for ways to relieve the hardship this powerful storm has caused. ... Much of the heavy-lifting to recover from the hurricane is still to come and our leaders and staff are determined to find as many ways as we can for VA to help in the response." The article adds that "the Florida Health Care Association said as of Thursday morning, 64 of the state's 683 nursing homes" still lacked power.

POLICE "RAID" TEXAS NURSING HOME THAT LEFT RESIDENTS IN FLOODWATERS. The AP (9/14) reports that on Thursday, police "raided" Lake Arthur Place, a Texas nursing home where law enforcement found 74 elderly residents being "kept in floodwaters during Tropical Storm Harvey." A Port Arthur police affidavit said nursing home administrator Jeff Rosetta resisted evacuation efforts and was handcuffed during the process, adding that his resistance and lack of action prior to flooding resulted in injuries among residents. Rosetta and the center are under investigation.

EXPERTS RECOMMEND STRATEGIES FOR SELECTING TRUSTWORTHY NURSING HOME.

The New York Times (9/14, Thomas, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports a list of five suggestions for helping people choose a dependable nursing home, a concern which the Times says many have following "news that eight Florida nursing home residents died in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma." Citing advice from experts in nursing home quality, the Times recommends people searching for a reliable nursing home avoid making hasty decisions; thoroughly research a facility by utilizing resources such as the federal Nursing Home Compare website; visit facilities during busier times or during times of low staffing "to gain a sense of how the facility operates when conditions are not ideal"; request a copy of the nursing home's emergency management plan; and contact local nursing home ombudsmen for additional assistance.

OPINION: HEALTHCARE PRICE SHOPPING PROCESS NEEDS IMPROVED

TRANSPARENCY. Harvard associate professor of healthcare policy and medicine Ateev Mehrotra, using a personal example, writes in <u>STAT</u> (9/14, 43K) that "price shop[ping] for health care" is an onerous process plagued by a lack of transparency. Mehrotra says he and his "colleagues...have found that most people can't successfully shop for care," and "offering people a price transparency website" fails to "help them switch to lower-cost providers" or "decrease health care spending." Mehrotra suggests several ways the US could improve healthcare consumers' ability to price shop, including "bundl[ing] payments to hospitals and surgery centers" and establishing "a real-time 'checkout' model consistent with most other services."

US HOUSE VOTES TO REPEAL DC'S ASSISTED-SUICIDE LAW, SENATE HAS YET TO ACT. The Washington Post (9/14, Portnoy, 10.38M) reports that the House of Representatives passed a spending law that would block the District of Columbia's Death with Dignity law, prohibit subsidies for abortions for low-income residents, impede its regulation of the sale of marijuana, and block its anti-discrimination laws for workers based on their reproductive decisions. The District's assisted-suicide law passed in December by an 11-2 vote after more than a year of discussions, and supporters say it allows "terminally ill patients to choose the timing and manner of their deaths." The article adds that is now up to the Senate to either take up an identical measure or it could "stall for another year congressional efforts to rein in the District through spending-related measures."

Human Services News:

SEVENTY HEALTHCARE ORGANIZATIONS PRESS CONGRESS ON DACA. The Hill (9/14, Hellmann, 1.68M) reports "seventy health care organizations," spearheaded "by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)," on Thursday pushed for Congress to establish "a legal



pathway to permanent residency for" children "with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status." The article says that "Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.)" indicated Wednesday evening they "had reached an agreement in principle" with President Trump on the DACA issue.

PENNSYLVANIA AUDITOR GENERAL FINDS CHILD-WELFARE SYSTEM TO BE "BROKEN" IN NEW REPORT. The Philadelphia Inquirer (9/14, Terruso, 1.71M) reports Pennsylvania Auditor General Eugene DePasquale released a report on the state's child-welfare system on Thursday, entitled "State of the Child," in which DePasquale wrote, "Pennsylvania's child welfare system is broken. This is not hyperbole or exaggeration. ... Although a year-long review found passionate, dedicated professionals doing great work, it also found an extremely problematic system with deficiencies that put children's lives at risk." The report analyzed information from 13 representative counties in the state to reach its conclusions and recommendations, which included "more funding for training for child welfare workers and up-to-date technology to help them in their jobs."

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (9/14, Giammarise, 516K) also provides coverage.

Nutrition & Obesity:

CARDIOLOGIST DISCUSSES WEIGHT GAIN, METABOLIC CHANGES TIED TO ARTIFICIAL SWEETENERS. In the Wall Street Journal (9/14, 6.45M) "The Experts" blog, cardiologist Harlan Krumholz, MD, the Harold H. Hines, Jr. Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology and Public Health and the Yale University School of Medicine, discusses the growing number of studies suggesting that consumption of non-caloric artificial sweeteners may be causing weight gain, alterations in gut microbiota, and harmful metabolic changes. Dr. Krumholz observes that he personally is no longer drinking diet sodas and making sure he isn't consuming artificial sweeteners in his diet.

Medicare:

HEALTH DATA EXCHANGE COULD SAVE MEDICARE \$3.12 BILLION ANNUALLY, STUDY SAYS. Health IT Analytics (9/14, Bresnick) reports that an integrated national health data exchange system could save Medicare \$3.12 billion a year by "enhancing coordinated care and fostering more effective population health management programs," according to researchers from Notre Dame and the University of Michigan. The study looked at regional markets that have already saved an average of \$139 per beneficiary per year through health information exchange (HIE) organizations by reducing duplicate tests and procedures and having access to complete and accurate medical records, which also have made improvements in chronic disease management.

Medicaid & CHIP:

FORMER SEN. FRIST: CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM DEMANDS QUICK, BIPARTISAN PASSAGE. Former Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-TN) writes in Forbes (9/14, 5.11M) that the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is a "testament" to the goal of improving the "health of America's kids" and strengthening American families, and urges its passage. Frist reviews his decision to give up his career as a surgeon to enter public service so that he could "make a positive impact on the greatest number of lives" with legislation like CHIP.

OPINION: CHIP REAUTHORIZATION REMAINS TENUOUS AS DEADLINE APPROACHES.Dylan Scott writes for Vox (9/14, 1.54M) that time is running out for Congress to fund the Children's Health Insurance Program, which expires September 30. Scott praises the "outline of a deal" senators reached earlier this week, which would "extend CHIP's funding for five years" in "a big win for advocates who wanted a long-term extension." However, Scott says "three big



caveats" could still hinder the process: identifying funding, gaining House approval, and the possibility of lawmakers "attach[ing] more controversial items – either Obamacare stabilization or repeal provisions – to the CHIP funding."

MEDICAID DEMAND STRAINS NEW MEXICO'S FINANCES. The AP (9/15) reports New Mexico's Human Services Department, which oversees Medicaid, has requested an \$84 million increase from the general fund due to an "increased strain" on state finances from Medicaid healthcare spending. The article says that Congress could "remove some of the pressure" by extending the Children's Health Insurance Program.

VIRGINIA HOUSE CANDIDATES FACE OFF OVER MEDICAID EXPANSION. The Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (9/14, Moomaw, 394K) reports that during a candidate forum on Wednesday for a Richmond, Virginia, state House seat between the Republican incumbent G. Manoli Loupassi and Democratic challenger and nurse practitioner Dawn M. Adams, the candidates discussed Medicaid expansion. Adams declared support for expansion, calling it a "moral issue" and arguing that the state has missed out on federal dollars. Loupassi claimed that Medicaid expansion would require state tax increases and said, "I don't agree to raise your taxes."

IDAHO OFFICIALS OFFER PLAN TO ADDRESS MEDICAID GAP, LOWER PREMIUMS. The AP (9/14, Kruesi) reports that an Idaho healthcare advisory panel led by former Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Director Dick Armstrong presented a plan for two waivers aimed at closing the Medicaid gap and driving down premiums on the state's healthcare exchange. The proposal would allow some 35,000 working adults to buy subsidized health insurance on the exchange and would move the 2,500 "sickest adults" who account for roughly 40 percent of insurance claims off of the exchange and onto Medicaid, thus driving down premiums. The article reported that Armstrong said he had served on six advisory panels to address the Medicaid gap and to lower costs, but that all of his recommendations have "died in the Legislature."

STUDY FINDS ACA MEDICAID EXPANSION TIED TO EARLIER CANCER CARE FOR THE POOR. Reuters (9/14, Rapaport) reports that researchers have found that more low-income adults who got diagnosed with cancer in states that expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act had health insurance and were diagnosed when their cancer was less advanced than those in states that did not expand Medicaid. Before the ACA took effect, 9.6 percent of low-income people diagnosed with cancer were uninsured, but afterwards in states with Medicaid expansion, that proportion was just 3.6 percent. The states that did not expand Medicaid showed a lesser drop: from 14.7 percent diagnosed with cancer without insurance to 13.3 percent afterwards. The piece says that these results "suggest a need for additional expansion of access to care, especially for low-income populations."

COLUMNIST ASKS WHETHER NEVADANS WOULD PAY HIGHER TAXES FOR MEDICAID EXPANSION. Victor Joecks writes in his <u>Las Vegas Review-Journal</u> (9/14, 458K) column that Medicaid expansion in Nevada may require a "massive tax increase to give 'free' health care to abled-body adults above the poverty line," and that Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval (R) and Sen. Dean Heller (R) "want Washington to continue paying the bulk of the program's tab." Joecks argues that the money the federal and state government is spending on Medicaid expansion could be used for education, and concludes, "If the Medicaid expansion is so beneficial to the state and its people, shouldn't Nevada's top elected officials be willing to ask Nevadans to pay for it themselves?"

Health & Medical News:

NEW THERAPIES INDICATE CANCER IS BECOMING MORE SURVIVABLE. The Economist (9/14, 846K) reports that cancer is the second leading cause of death globally behind heart disease. Cancer is becoming more survivable in wealthy nations, however. According to The Economist, 67 percent of US patients "will survive for at least five years," with the caveat that



"different cancers fare differently, as do different sorts of patients." New research tools, including "easily generated antibodies, rapid gene sequencing and ever easier genetic engineering, have revolutionised biologists' understanding of cancer. This understanding has allowed more specific approaches to the disease to be developed, and the trend will continue." The rise of immunotherapy, "once a pipe dream, has become practical medicine, with approved therapies for eight kinds of cancer. The excitement at oncology conferences is palpable."

VARIETY OF NEW CANCER TREATMENTS ARE UNDER DEVELOPMENT. The Economist (9/15, 846K) reports that immunotherapy "offers huge promise, both as an addition to established therapies and as a foundation for future ones. Hundreds of trials are pairing CTLA-4, PD-1 or PD-L1 inhibitors with chemotherapy, radiation and targeted therapies." There is also the "development of further immunotherapies, which is being pursued both by building on the successes of the first checkpoint inhibitors and by using entirely new technologies, such as genome editing." Old ideas, such as vaccination, "are coming back into vogue." Some infections can lead to cancer, so "some of these vaccinations can prevent it." Furthermore, vaccines, equipped with the right antigen, "might encourage an immune response to a tumour which is already present, but which the immune system has failed to get to grips with." Biotech firms are "pursuing the creation of personalised vaccines based on the mutations in an individual tumour."

RESEARCHERS MAKE PROGRESS IN TREATING PEDIATRIC CANCER THANKS TO DONATED BRAIN OF FORMER COLLEGE FOOTBALL COACH'S GRANDSON. The Washington Post (9/14, Payne, 10.38M) reports researchers are using the brain donated by the deceased five-year-old grandson of former University of Michigan football coach Lloyd Carr to research the tumor that killed him. Chad Carr was diagnosed with Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG) in 2014, a cancer that "causes an inoperable tumor to grow in a child's brain that proves deadly to nearly 99 percent of those who receive the diagnosis." These statistics may decline thanks to Chad's brain, "in which researchers discovered an important gene mutation in his DIPG tumor that could potentially be controlled through an experimental treatment." Carl Koschmann, a pediatric oncologist at the University of Michigan's C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, "published his team's findings in the journal NPJ Precision Oncology on Thursday, identifying the genetic mutation as aphosphatase and tensin homolog (PTEN) loss."

PHILADELPHIA INSTITUTIONS PARTICIPATING IN NIH-FUNDED "SMART" WATER BOTTLE STUDY TO REDUCE KIDNEY STONES. The Philadelphia Inquirer (9/14, Burling, 1.71M) reports Penn Medicine and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia are participating in a clinical trial "testing whether a \$55 'smart' water bottle that sends data on how much users drink to a phone app, plus financial incentives, can keep people of all ages who've had one kidney stone from getting another one." About one in 11 Americans has had a kidney stone, up 70 percent from 15 years ago. Treating kidney stones costs approximately \$10 billion each year, according to the National Institutes of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. The goal behind the clinical trials, funded by a \$450,000 grant from the NIH's Urinary Stone Disease Research Network, is to "get people who've had kidney stones to drink more so they will urinate more."

PENNSYLVANIA HEALTH DEPARTMENT ISSUES REPORT ON PITTSBURGH HOSPITAL'S BREACH OF PRIVACY OF UNCONSCIOUS PATIENT. The Washington Post (9/15, Horton, 10.38M) reports that Pennsylvania's Department of Health and Human Services issued a report on Wednesday concerning a "serious breach of privacy for an unconscious patient" as hospital staffers crowded into an operating room to take photos of "a patient's genitals with a foreign object protrusion." The citation led to a 28-day suspension of one physician, another for a week, and the "ousting of the surgical services nursing director" at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center's Bedford Memorial Hospital. The report indicated that photos were circulated among hospital staff and beyond the staff, as well.

MAN SUFFERS ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION AFTER BEING SCRATCHED BY CAT. Newsweek (9/14, Matthews, 991K) reports that in a "rare but true case" report (9/12, 18K) published Sept. 12



in the BMJ, a 23-year-old man "suffered from erectile dysfunction after being scratched by a cat." The man visited the emergency department "after experiencing a fever, chills and intense night sweating for five days. He also suffered from erectile dysfunction as well as pain in his lower back, pelvis, testicles and penis glands, according to the report." Physicians eventually diagnosed him with cat-scratch disease, caused by the Bartonella henselae bacterium, which was later confirmed by a bone marrow and lymph node biopsy.

MARCH FOR SCIENCE ORGANIZERS PLOT LONG-TERM STRATEGY. STAT (9/14, Facher, 43K) reports organizers of April's March for Science on the National Mall realized in a meeting a month after the rally that the "grass-roots organization that was quickly formed to plan a singular event was not, at least immediately, equipped for far-reaching and long-term science advocacy." Caroline Weinberg, one of the national march's co-organizers, wrote to STAT in an email, "The big picture question was (and continues to be): How do we successfully transition from a march into a movement and how do we continue to mobilize our diverse, interdisciplinary, passionate supporters for science advocacy?" The organizers will, in the coming weeks, "begin to roll out their long-term strategy" of creating structures that "sell and incorporate science into every level of daily life, and ensure that science advocates are recognized as a constituency at every level of government." There is talk of a high-school student-designed "students for science" initiative and bringing the March for Science back next April.

ROSWELL PARK RESEARCHERS EXPLORE BETA BLOCKER USE FOR CANCER THERAPIES. The Buffalo (NY) News (9/14, 362K) reports a research team from Roswell Park Cancer Institute "reports that beta-2 adrenergic receptors, molecules present in the cells of humans and other mammals, control the functionality of key immune cells." These receptors are responsible for the "fight or flight" response when stressed, in which they generate "more of the stress hormone norepinephrine, buffering normal cells from some damaging effects but also impeding the immune system's ability to fight cancer." The report demonstrates "that the beta-2 adrenergic receptor, also known as ADRB2, can be pharmacologically manipulated." The article mentions the research was supported by grants from the National Cancer Institute, among other cancer organizations.

REPORT FINDS SHORTCOMINGS IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH. The NPR (9/14, Greenfieldboyce, 2.4M) "Shots" blog reports the conclusion of a report released Thursday by the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine concluded that existing practices and policies on "so-called dual-use biological research" have "serious shortcomings." The Federal government has attempted to "mitigate the risks of dual-use research by setting up special committees, issuing new policies for reviewing federally funded research, and putting restrictions on what government-funded scientists can do with certain viruses like influenza." The report found the government's "current policies focus on seven types of experiments with 15 select pathogens and toxins and don't capture the full range of biosecurity concerns that come from the life sciences."

HAPPY MUSIC MAY STIMULATE CREATIVITY, STUDY SUGGESTS. Reuters (9/14, Crist) reports that "listening to happy music" may encourage creative thinking, according to a study published in PLoS ONE. The study involved five groups of approximately 30 students each who were "randomly assigned to listen to one of four pieces of music or to silence before and during...creativity tasks." Only "happy music" made "a significant difference in performance on the creativity test."

IN LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIPS, WOMEN ARE MORE LIKELY THAN MEN TO LOSE INTEREST IN SEX, STUDY SUGGESTS. USA Today (9/14, Bowerman, 8.62M) reports that women are more apt than men "to lose interest in sex while in a longterm relationship," according to a recent study published in BMJ Open. Of the "4,839 British men and 6,669 women aged 16-74" surveyed, "15% of men and 34.2% of women reported lacking interest in sex" for at least three months of the prior year, the story says. USA Today adds that the study found "women were more likely to lose interest in sex when living with a partner or while in a relationship lasting



over a year."

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (9/14, Parker, 1.16M) also covers the story.

PHYSICIAN SAYS "NUDGES" CAN HELP SERIOUSLY ILL PATIENTS MAKE HARD END-OF-LIFE DECISIONS. STAT (9/14, Tedeschi, 43K) interviews University of Pennsylvania critical care physician Dr. Scott Halpern, who, the article says, believes a "nudge," or "framing a set of choices" to influence a person toward a certain decision "without shutting out other options," can be beneficial for patients making "end-of-life decisions." For example, Halpern says if physicians can "hel[p] patients see that by completing an advance directive they'll reduce decision-making burdens for their loved ones, many more patients will end up doing it because that's of such great importance to people."

HOUSE VOTES TO PROHIBIT FUNDING OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH LAW. Cristina Marcos writes in The Hill (9/14, Marcos, 1.68M) "Floor Action" blog that the House on Thursday voted in favor of a Republican measure to deny federal funding to D.C. to implement a "law which bans employers from punishing workers for obtaining contraception, family planning services or abortions." The measure "was adopted on a mostly party-line vote of 214-194." The measure's sponsor, Rep. Gary Palmer (R-AL), said, "This law prevents religious and pro-life advocacy organizations from making employment decisions consistent with their institutional mission. Without my amendment, some employers in the District of Columbia would be forced to embrace the beliefs of the 13 members of the D.C. Council."

OHIO HOUSE SPEAKER SAYS FLU VACCINE BILL MOVED TOO QUICKLY, NEEDS WORK. The Columbus (OH) Dispatch (9/14, Siegel, 456K) reports that an Ohio bill "that would largely prohibit hospitals and other employers from requiring" employee flu shots received a negative response from House speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R) on Wednesday. Rosenberger said he thought the bill advanced through committee "a little quickly" and said the House would "look at drawing that back a little back so we can have a little more time on the bill and give it more hearings." The article says the bill likely will be "re-referr[ed]...to a committee." The Dispatch adds that the bill faced "opposition from every major state health-care association and the Ohio Chamber of Commerce."

ABORTION RATES FALL AS MORE HOSPITALS ARE ACQUIRED BY CATHOLIC-AFFILIATED SYSTEMS, STUDY SUGGESTS. Modern Healthcare (9/14, Johnson, Subscription Publication, 238K) reports that "as more hospitals become Catholic-affiliated," they are performing significantly fewer "inpatient abortions and other reproductive health services" prohibited by Catholicism, a new study determined. In a six-state analysis of Catholic hospitals, the study "found per-bed annual rates of inpatient abortions dropped by 30%" and "rates of sterilization via tubal ligation also decreased by 31%."

ENZALUTAMIDE SHOWS PROMISING RESULTS FOR PATIENTS WITH EARLY STAGE PROSTATE CANCER IN CLINICAL TRIAL. Reuters (9/14, Grover) reports that Pfizer and Astellas Pharma announced that Xtandi (enzalutamide), "in combination with an anti-hormone therapy," met the main goal in a clinical trial for patients with early stage prostate cancer. The drug "was statistically significant in improving survival in men with non-metastatic CRPC without their cancer spreading, compared with the standalone anti-hormone therapy." Fierce Pharma (9/14, Staton) reports that details from the clinical trial "won't be available until they're presented at an upcoming medical conference," but "the results were good enough to prompt conversations with regulators about a new approval in all patients with castration-resistant prostate cancer."

MODERNA, ASTRAZENECA'S EXPERIMENTAL HEART DRUG SHOWS PROMISING RESULTS IN EARLY TRIAL. Reuters (9/14, Mukhopadhyay) reports that AstraZeneca and Modern Therapeutics' experimental heart drug, mRNA AZD-8601, "met the main goal in an early-stage trial." AstraZeneca has applied for a mid-stage clinical trial of the drug in Europe.



<u>Fierce Biotech</u> (9/14, Adams) reports that the drug "works to express a local and transient surge of vascular endothelial growth factor-A (VEGF-A) as a potential treatment for cardiovascular diseases."

Additional coverage is provided by the <u>Financial Times</u> (9/14, Crow, Subscription Publication, 1.34M).

ROMOSOZUMAB REDUCES RISK OF BONE FRACTURES IN WOMEN WITH OSTEOPOROSIS, STUDY INDICATES. The <u>Birmingham (AL) Business Journal</u> (9/14, Patchen, Subscription Publication, 870K) reports that romosozumab "has been shown to reduce the risk of bone fractures in women with osteoporosis" by boosting bone formation in a clinical trial. The study compared romosozumab "against one of the primary standards of care for osteoporosis, a drug called alendronate." The findings are published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

INVESTORS FUNDING COMPANIES DEVELOPING TECHNOLOGIES TO IMPROVE MEDICATION ADHERENCE. <u>STAT</u> (9/14, Robbins, 43K) reports that investors are "pumping money into companies" developing new technologies "aimed at helping patients take their medications as prescribed." According to STAT, poor medication adherence costs the pharmaceutical industry \$376 billion each year.

DRUGS APPROVED UNDER EXPEDITED REVIEW HAVE HIGHER RATE OF CHANGES TO SAFETY WARNINGS, STUDY FINDS. STAT (9/14, Silverman, 43K) reports that a study published in BMJ suggests that "medicines that were approved using expedited regulatory procedures had a 38 percent higher rate of changes to safety warnings on product labels." It also found a 48 percent higher rate to changes for boxed warnings and contraindications.

FEDERAL INVESTIGATION RESULTS IN NEW CONFESSION IN INTERNATIONAL COUNTERFEIT PET PHARMACEUTICAL SCAM. The Houston Chronicle (9/14, Banks, 1.97M) reports California vendor Sean L. Gerson confessed this week that "he had been peddling unregistered and smuggled animal pesticides online for 15 years, landing \$2.5 million in profits," marking the latest development in a five-year joint investigation between the Department of Homeland Security and the Food and Drug Administration with connections to Los Angeles, Houston, and Galveston. According to Assistant Special Agent in Charge Richard Valverson, "The products that these guys were selling ended up all over the U.S. ... We were seeing it penetrate the legitimate supply chain, on the web, but also big brand name stores had received some of this product." Assistant US Attorney Joseph Johns said, "Our goal with these prosecutions has been to dismantle the entire smuggling and distribution network for these illegal products."

COMMENTARY SUPPORTS PHILIP MORRIS' MODIFIED RISK TOBACCO PRODUCT APPLICATION FOR IQOS TECHNOLOGY. The Washington Examiner (9/14, Bentley, 465K) features commentary from Reason Foundation research associate Guy Bentley supporting Philip Morris' Modified Risk Tobacco Product application to the FDA for the company's heat-not-burn vaping product IQOS. According to Bentley, "Because there is no combustion in IQOS, there is no smoke, which means levels of lethal chemicals found in cigarette smoke are dramatically reduced," making the products a reasonable choice for MRTP eligibility. Bentley concludes, "If the FDA is serious about providing smokers the best possible options to quit and avoid an early grave, granting the MRTP for IQOS will be a major win for tobacco harm reduction and will provide the tools and information smokers desperately need."

LILLY, INCYTE'S BARICITINIB MEETS PHASE 2 ENDPOINTS. Reuters (9/14) reports that Lilly and Incyte's baricitinib beat a placebo in a Phase 2 trial for eczema. Eli and Incyte presented the trial results at the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology annual meeting in Geneva and said they plan to launch a Phase 3 trial in atopic dermatitis later this year. The Phase 2 eczema trial "found that after 16 weeks, 61 percent of patients on the highest dose of baricitinib and a topical corticosteroid had at least a 50 percent reduction in symptoms, compared to 37



percent of patients treated with just a steroid."

BRIEF, INTENSE EXERCISE MAY ACTIVATE MOLECULAR PATHWAYS IN THE BODY THAT BOOST CHEMICALS THAT SUPPRESS GROWTH OF BREAST CANCER CELLS, RESEARCH IN MICE SUGGESTS. Reuters (9/14, Boggs) reports that research suggests "brief exercise that's intense enough to get" an individual's "heart rate elevated and make" him or her "breathe heavily activates molecular pathways in the body that boost chemicals called catecholamines, such as epinephrine, which suppressed the growth of breast cancer cells." The study, done in mice, was published in Cancer Research.

SAN DIEGO BLEACHING STREETS TO COMBAT HEPATITIS A OUTBREAK. ABC World News Tonight (9/14, story 11, 0:15, Muir, 14.63M) reported the city of San Diego is leading public health initiatives in an effort to "help stem a Hepatitis A outbreak that's already claimed 16 lives in less than a year." The initiative includes cleaning crews "bleaching city streets" as the city battles the outbreak that has led to more than 400 confirmed cases.

SUFFOLK COUNTY CONFIRMS FIRST TWO HUMAN WEST NILE VIRUS CASES OF YEAR. Newsday (NY) (9/14, Kitchen, 1.64M) reports Suffolk County, New York, health officials on Thursday confirmed that two Smithtown residents have tested positive for West Nile virus, marking the first human cases in the county this year. One resident "has fully recovered," while the other authorities said is "receiving supportive therapy at a local hospital." County health services commissioner Dr. James Tomarken said authorities "never learned about" other possible cases "because they didn't seek medical attention or they sought attention but lab tests weren't ordered." The article notes CDC data show it has received reports of 2,038 cases of the virus since January 17.

YOLO COUNTY OFFICIALS CONFIRM TWO "SEVERE" CASES OF WEST NILE VIRUS. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (9/14, Sullivan, 349K) reports Yolo County, California, health officials have confirmed that two adult residents have been hospitalized with "severe" cases of West Nile virus. The cases are considered to be "neuroinvasive," a mark of their advanced state. Health officials "declined to identify the two areas of the county where the people had become infected" and "when they were admitted for treatment." The US CDC reports that nearly one in 50 people have severe symptoms related to West Nile virus cases.

COMPANY DEVELOPS NEW 3-D PRINTING TECHNIQUE TO PRODUCE VIABLE HUMAN ORGANS. Healthcare IT News (9/14, Siwicki, 5K) reports startup human tissue engineering company Prellis Biologics has developed a method to "create what it says are viable human organs using near instantaneous 3-D printing," a technique it "says it is solving the greatest obstacle to producing functional human tissue in the lab – the ability to print microvasculature." Where other companies have stumbled on the "roadblock" of creating microvasculature, Prellis has established a method to build tissue "scaffolding that includes microvascular structures," making it easier to print the blood vessel structures into larger tissue samples.

GOOGLE IMPOSES RESTRICTIONS ON ADS PLACED BY DRUG REHABILITATION CENTERS. The New York Times (9/14, Corkery, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports Google recently established restrictions for advertisements placed by drug rehabilitation centers as more legal representatives and health advocates warn that online searches could be leading addicts to centers that are unable to help or could endanger them. Google spokeswoman Elisa Greene said the company "found a number of misleading experiences among rehabilitation treatment centers that led to our decision" to cease selling ads related to searches for rehab facilities. The Times reports Google "may lift the restriction if it can find a way to weed out misleading advertisements."

COLUMN: HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATORS RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING, PREVENTING WORKPLACE VIOLENCE AGAINST NURSES. Anna Almendrala writes for the Huffington Post (9/14, 5.74M) that nurses are continually faced with workplace violence caused by the patients



they are there to help, although they also are left victims by "hospital administrators who have the ability to gather data on the incidents, enforce strict zero-tolerance policies against violence and create environments that discourage assaults," but largely have not done so. This "is a problem for nurses ... as well as the industry as a whole," and potentially could lead to an even steeper decline in the number of employees comprising the already dwindling national nursing workforce. Almendrala calls for more legislative mandates to encourage hospital administrators to track and prevent incidents of violence, and discusses expert recommendations on training hospital employees on how to address violence.

ALLERGAN TRIBAL PATENT DELVES INTO UNEXPLORED LEGAL TERRAIN. Reuters (9/14, Wolfe) reports legal experts commenting on Allergan's transfer of its Restasis patent to the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe say the deal is breaking into new legal territory. Under contention is the tribe's use of sovereign immunity, which Allergan says places the patents outside of the Patent Trial and Appeal Board's authority. Per some legal scholars, there is no current precedent for either Allergan or competitors that have challenged the legality of its deal due to the agreement's anomalous nature.

GARDNER SIGNS ON TO SUPPORT MEDICAL MARIJUANA RESEARCH BILL. The Denver Post (9/14, Paul, 817K) reports Sen. Cory Gardner (R-CO) has voiced support for a bipartisan bill that aims to "ease the way for medical marijuana research that he hopes will be a big positive for Colorado." Sponsored by Sens. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Brian Schatz (D-HI) and co-sponsored by Gardner, the legislation would encourage research on medical marijuana "by streamlining the registration process and mak[ing] more pot available for the commercial production of any cannabis-derived Food and Drug Administration-approved drugs." The legislation also would require the National Institute on Drug Abuse to establish and publish recommendations on growing and producing marijuana for research purposes.

STUDY: BACTERIA COULD PROTECT TUMORS FROM ANTICANCER DRUGS. The Atlantic (9/14, Yong, 1.64M) reports on a study showing that some of the tens of trillions of bacteria and microscopic organisms in the human body can "shield tumors from anticancer drugs." The researchers found that an enzyme called CDD in a bacterium could dull the efficacy of a cancer drug, gemcitabine, for pancreatic cancer. Ravid Straussman of the Weizmann Institute of Science, one of the co-authors, said, "It would be naïve to think that antibiotics would cure these patients." The Atlantic says the research suggests that one solution might be to "block the CDD enzyme, and stop the bacteria from neutralizing gemcitabine."

Global Health:

STUDY FINDS POOR DIETS, TOBACCO, MENTAL DISORDERS ARE LEADING CAUSES OF ILL HEALTH AROUND THE WORLD. Reuters (9/14, Kelland) reports a study published in The Lancet called "The Global Burden of Disease" found that heart disease and tobacco-related illnesses were on par with conflict and violence as causes of death around the world in 2016, "while poor diets and mental disorders caused people the greatest ill health." According to Christopher Murray, director of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington, obesity, conflict, and mental illness represent a "triad of troubles" that are "emerging as a 'stubborn and persistent barrier to active and vigorous lifestyles."

HEALTH OFFICIALS HALT BLOOD DONATIONS IN PARTS OF ROME AMID CHIKUNGUNYA OUTBREAK. Reuters (9/14, Balmer) reports an outbreak of the "mosquito-borne illness Chikungunya" has caused health officials to "suspend blood donations" in affected areas of Rome. Reuters says authorities have detected the virus in "at least 17 people in southeastern Rome...since the end of August." The blood donation "ban covers some 1.2 million residents." Chikungunya "is not deadly, but there is no vaccine," Reuters adds.

EU AGENCY GIVES POSITIVE OPINION TO GLAXOSMITHKLINE'S INHALER. Reuters (9/15, Nair) reports GlaxoSmithKline announced on Friday that a European Medicines Agency's (EMA)



Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) recommended the company's three-in-one inhaled lung drug which combines fluticasone furoate, umeclidinium, and vilanterol. The drug uses the three different mechanisms to "help open airways of patients with severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)." Reuters also discusses GSK's blockbuster drug Advair that has so far avoided generic competition in the US because none of its rivals have won approval for an equivalent form of the drug.

LUNG CANCER CASES IN NORTHERN IRELAND "INCREASE BY A THIRD," SAYS REPORT. BBC News (UK) (9/15, Connolly, 1.61M) reports that a Queen's University in Belfast and Northern Ireland Cancer Registry Study found that lung cancer cases have increased by a third over an eight-year period, 2006 to 2014. The increase was more than four times as great among women as it was in men, 55 percent to 12 percent. Dr. Anna Gavin, the author of the report, attributed the increase in part to people living longer.

CHINA ASSERTS IT HAS REFORMED CONTROVERSIAL ORGAN TRANSPLANT SYSTEM THROUGH VOLUNTARY ONLINE REGISTRY. The Washington Post (9/14, Denyer, 10.38M) reports the Chinese government asserts its once highly-criticized organ transplant system — which often involved organs harvested from unwilling prisoners to be sold to the highest bidders — has reformed, thanks in large part to health official Huang Jiefu, who "built a register of voluntary donors, overcoming both entrenched interests that profited from the old ways" and cultural attitudes against organ donation. The registry uses an app which connects to "a computerized database [that] matches donors with compatible potential recipients, alerting doctors by text message as soon as organs become available." However, some international critics still insist unethical organ harvesting persists in some sanctioned instances in the country.

MALAYSIA BECOMES FIRST COUNTRY TO ISSUE A LICENSE TO MAKE GENERIC VERSIONS OF SOFOSBUVIR. <u>STAT</u> (9/14, Silverman, 43K) reports that Malaysia "will follow through on plans to issue a license to generic companies to make a version" of Gilead Sciences' Sovaldi (sofosbuvir). This will make it the "first country to take such a step amid growing global pushback over the cost of the groundbreaking medicine."

National News:

AS RIGHT LASHES OUT, TRUMP SAYS DACA DEAL WOULD INCLUDE "MASSIVE BORDER CONTROLS." Media coverage of the DACA talks between the President and Democratic leaders Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer highlighted the seeming sense of anger and betrayal on the part of some on the right. The contours of the emerging agreement reportedly include a legislative fix to the DREAMers' legal status and beefed-up border security - but not a border wall. The Hill (9/14, Easley, 1.68M), for example, described Trump's supporters as "apoplectic and lashing out at 'Amnesty Don," the New York Times (9/14, Peters, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) says he "came under withering attack...from some of his strongest supporters, who were outraged and unforgiving," and the Washington Post (9/14, Costa, 10.38M) that his "staunch conservative allies...have erupted in anger and incredulity." Rep. Steve King "issued a dramatic warning to the president after he scrolled through news reports," declaring Trump's base "blown up, destroyed, irreparable, and disillusioned beyond repair." Townhall (9/14, Pavlich, 523K) noted that King told CNN, "The base will leave him. They can't support him anymore." Ann Coulter, meanwhile, tweeted, "At this point, who doesn't want Trump impeached?" USA Today (9/14, Estepa, 8.62M) reports that she later added, "If we're not getting a wall, I'd prefer President Pence."

The President defended his actions yesterday, starting with three morning tweets. Trump wrote, "No deal was made last night on DACA. Massive border security would have to be agreed to in exchange for consent. Would be subject to vote." He also said "the WALL, which is already under construction in the form of new renovation of old and existing fences and walls, will continue to be built." Trump added, "Does anybody really want to throw out good, educated and accomplished young people who have jobs, some serving in the military? Really!....." White House press



secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said on Fox News' Fox & Friends (9/14, 1.9M), "The President has been very clear in what his position is. He wants to get a deal done. He wants to do that with DACA, but also to include massive border security and interior enforcements. That's what he's tweeted this morning. That was the message he relayed last night."

The <u>Los Angeles Times</u> (9/14, Mascaro, Bennett, Lauter, 4.49M) reports Trump further "defended his negotiations with Democratic leaders on immigration" later yesterday, telling reporters en route to Florida, "We're working on a plan – subject to getting massive border controls. We're working on a plan for DACA." The <u>CBS Evening News</u> (9/14, lead story, 3:25, Cordes, 11.17M) showed Trump saying, "There was no deal. They didn't say they had a deal." <u>Roll Call</u> (9/14, Bennett, 134K) noted that White House deputy press secretary Lindsay Walters also told reporters, "There was no deal made."

On the other hand, the AP (9/14, Werner, Colvin) quotes Trump as saying "he was 'fairly close' to a deal with congressional leaders." He added that "his promised wall along the US-Mexico border would 'come later,' but would need to happen soon." In fact, "after he landed in Florida, he declared repeatedly, 'If we don't have a wall, we're doing nothing.'" The CBS Evening News (9/14, lead story, 3:25, Cordes, 11.17M) reported that later Thursday, Trump "was back to criticizing the Democrats about the wall," telling reporters, "If the Democrats aren't going to approve it, then we're not going to do what they want." The Wall Street Journal (9/14, Meckler, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) runs a similar story under the headline "Trump, Democrats Haggle On Contours Of A 'Dreamers' Deal,"

ABC World News Tonight (9/14, story 4, 2:25, Vega, 14.63M) showed Trump saying, "We're talking about taking care of people, people that were brought here, people that have done a good job and were not brought here of their own volition. ... We're not looking at citizenship, we're not looking at amnesty. We're looking at allowing people to stay here." Breitbart (9/14, Spiering, 2.42M) reported that "on Air Force One, however, a White House spokesperson confirmed that 'legal citizenship over a period of time' for DACA recipients would likely be part of a deal." Pelosi, moreover, "insisted that the plan would offer them a 'path to citizenship." Politico (9/14, Nussbaum, 3.6M), meanwhile, reports "the White House is against 'amnesty,' but won't say what that means," and The Hill (9/14, Fabian, 1.68M) described Trump as "trying to soothe his base, which is incensed."

Eamon Javers said on <u>CNBC's Closing Bell</u> (9/14, 156K), "That's something that we haven't really seen much of in Washington since the Clinton Administration, but it looks like...Trump is trying a little triangulation here as well." The <u>Washington Times</u> (9/14, Dinan, 541K) reports, however, that the President also said yesterday that "GOP leaders in Congress are 'very much on board' the deal he's working with...Schumer and...Pelosi." The <u>Washington Post</u> (9/14, Viebeck, O'Keefe, Debonis, 10.38M) reports Speaker Ryan dismissed "the potential deal...as little more than a preliminary discussion," but also "agreed in broad terms with the president's goal of protecting hundreds of thousands of undocumented immigrants while postponing talk of a border wall but toughening US border security in other ways."

Sen. Bill Cassidy said on MSNBC's Morning Joe (9/14, 983K), "The American people obviously want the border security. But if you look at polls, the American people want something done with DACA in a way which doesn't kick out a lot of kids who came here when they were young. So, I think the President is probably looking at the polls and realizes the sweet spot is to work out that compromise. So, I think that's what the President seems to be aiming for."

Sen. James Lankford was asked on <u>CNN's The Lead</u> (9/14, 927K) if he could support a deal with Democrats on Dreamers that does not include funding for a border wall. Lankford said, "I would actually. ... I've been clear for years with people that the Dream Act is not going to pass, but it doesn't solve the problem to ignore the issue on the kids that are on DACA. ... As far as the issue of not having a border wall, that doesn't surprise me, quite frankly. ... The Department of Homeland Security has yet to explain to the" Appropriations and Homeland Security committees



"exactly what the wall would look like, where they would put it exactly, how it'd be constructed, the final cost of it. All of those things are still up in the air. Until they can resolve those things, we shouldn't have a border wall funding issue. ... We're not ready for that at this point. We are ready to be able to deal with DACA."

Rep. Ted Yoho said on <u>CNN's Situation Room</u> (9/14, 836K), "I don't think any deal's been cut. I think there was talks. You can't fix a problem if we don't talk about it, but I can tell you one thing is border security has to happen. Enforcement of laws has to happen before you'll see this go anywhere. But to talk about it and bring it out on the table I think is a winner for all of America."

Rep. Louie Gohmert said on Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight (9/14, 2.46M), "I refuse to talk about legalizing anybody until that border is secure. There are places we have got to have a wall, we've got to secure it, and once that is done, then we'll talk about this other stuff."

McClatchy (9/14, Glueck, 67K) describes Trump as "hedging on a border wall" and "threatening to betray core campaign promises in the process," though "according to the GOP base, this is all the fault of the Republican-controlled Congress." Along those lines, Joe Scarborough, in the Washington Post (9/14, 10.38M), calls King's comments yesterday "a primal scream" and mocks "poor Ann Coulter," but adds that "Hannity, Bannon and King are about to learn the same lesson that Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, Ted Cruz, Hillary Clinton, Jeff Zucker, Mika Brzezinski and I discovered in 2016: With Trump, it is never over. His base will stick with him no matter what."

Breitbart (9/14, Poor, 2.42M) noted that Rush Limbaugh did not join the choir of conservative criticism of Trump. Instead he said, "I'm asking myself: Would Trump really do that? Is he that...? Fill in the blank. But a lot of people do think it, a lot of people did think it, and right there pushing that narrative is the Drive-By Media – and certain Republicans are helping that narrative be pushed."

Rep. Tim Ryan said on Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight (9/14, 2.46M), "These are kids. These are kids who came here with family members. They did nothing wrong, and we are trying to solve a problem. Of course we want to talk about jobs, but this is an immediate crisis that, quite frankly, the President created. He could have handled this in a much better way of just saying, let's figure out if he wants to go through the legislative process to formalize this. We could have done that without all the drama. But here we are."

Rep. Adriano Espaillat said on <u>CNN's Anderson Cooper 360</u> (9/14, 1.12M) that the President "doesn't have to send it back to Congress. In fact, in Congress, we've got several pieces of legislation that takes care of the problem. We have the DREAM Act that is sponsored by Congresswomen Lucille Roybal-Allard and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, a bipartisan piece of legislation that seems to have the provisions in it that would resolve this problem. ... All he needs to do is a hop, skip, and a jump to the Capitol. Let's roll up our sleeves and go over the provisions in the bill. Let's see what's good and what's bad and make sure we pass it."

"Sources": House GOP Leaders Want Wall As Part Of DACA Deal. Politico (9/14, Bade, 3.6M) reports that according to "sources close to leadership...House Republicans plan to ask Trump to push for the wall as part of any DACA fix."

Meadows Tells Conservatives Not To Worry, Says Group "Working Very Closely" With White House. USA Today (9/14, Collins, 8.62M) reports Rep. Mark Meadows, chairman of the hard-line House Freedom Caucus, "says conservatives should not be concerned about reports...Trump has struck an immigration deal with Democrats, because the Freedom Caucus is taking the lead in drafting the bill." Meadows "downplayed talk of a deal Thursday, because he said members of his caucus are working in conjunction with the White House to get conservative legislative proposals drafted." Meadows told USA Today, "We're working very closely with the administration and conservative members of Congress...on how to address this (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) issue."



In fact, Politico (9/14, Cheney, Hesson, 3.6M) says "many conservatives on Capitol Hill made clear this week that there is, in fact, a window for the president to win buy-in from the right for a deal that would protect some undocumented immigrants...in exchange for stepped-up immigration enforcement measures." According to "interviews with more than a dozen conservative lawmakers...many envision a deal much like the one Trump and Democratic leaders purportedly reached." Politico adds that "the real test will be what kind of border security measures Democrats are willing to stomach, and whether the right will insist on a border wall despite Trump's decision to put it off."

Pelosi To Democratic Whips: "We Made A Deal To Make A Deal." Politico (9/14, Schor, Caygle, 3.6M) reports that Pelosi told "House Democratic whips that despite 'some misunderstandings in the press about a deal, we made a deal to make a deal. We made a deal to go forward."

House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer said on MSNBC's Morning Joe (9/14, 983K), "My understanding, I wouldn't call it a deal. What I would say is a plan to get to a deal. I think it was very clear that the President understood and there was an agreement that the Dreamer Act would be the substance of whatever agreement is ultimately reached and also what was reached was that security, enhanced security at the border would be part of whatever program was ultimately agreed to."

Pelosi: "I Do Trust The President Is Sincere." Reuters (9/14) reports that Pelosi also said yesterday "she trusted...Trump's sincerity in working to protect so-called Dreamers." Pelosi told reporters, "When we're talking about this legislation to protect the Dreamers, yes I do trust that the president is sincere in understanding that the public supports that overwhelmingly, the public supports not sending these young people back."

Schumer On Hot Mic: "He Likes Us" Or "Likes Me Anyway." Roll Call (9/14, McKinless, 134K) reported that "the Senate chamber microphones picked up...Schumer commenting on his relationship with...Trump Thursday morning." Said Schumer, "He likes us. ... He likes me anyway." Politico (9/14, Nelson, 3.6M) says "it was not clear about whom Schumer was speaking."

Sources: Trump Has Difficulty Speaking To McConnell, Has Better Rapport With Schumer And Pelosi. Politico (9/14, Bade, Dawsey, 3.6M) reports that "in recent weeks, Trump has complained in private that it's difficult to have any sort of relationship – or even make small talk – with...McConnell," and has "told staff that he finds...Ryan, whom he's dubbed a 'boy scout,' dry as well, but the two have some rapport." A "senior administration official" said "the only Republican in leadership with whom Trump has a personal connection is House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy." Politico adds that "by contrast, Trump can relate to Democratic leaders...Schumer and...Pelosi," and "wants to keep meeting with them." A "White House source" tells Politico, "Schumer just talks to him. You get Mitch and Paul in here, and they're trying to explain this or that, and there is no personal connection."

Breitbart: "Amnesty Don" Number One Trend In DC On Twitter. Breitbart (9/13, Binder, 2.42M) indicated, in fact, that "Amnesty Don' peaked at the number one trend in Washington, D.C. on Twitter, the social media outlet the President is most known for using." Breitbart (9/14, Moons, 2.42M) also runs a series of pieces highly critical of Trump, including one titled "9 Family Members Of Americans Killed By Illegal Aliens Respond To Possible DACA Deal With Democrats."

Another <u>Breitbart</u> (9/14, Munro, 2.42M), titled "Trump Voters Throw MAGA Hats into Twitter Bonfire," warns the President that "the hat-burning may presage a huge demoralization among Trump's loyal followers, and cause his support to drop down to the basement levels achieved by President George W. Bush when he pushed for an amnesty in 2006 and 2007."



Hispanic Lawmakers, Immigration Activists Upset At Pelosi And Schumer. Politico (9/14, Schor, Caygle, 3.6M) reports "Democratic leaders are facing fresh trouble with their left flank after cutting their latest deal with President Donald Trump to protect Dreamers." Politico adds that "Hispanic lawmakers were blindsided by the Wednesday night announcement from" Pelosi and Schumer "that they'd support legislation to help the nearly 700,000 undocumented immigrants in exchange for an unspecified boost in border security," and "immigration activists were frustrated to see Democrats claim victory only days after calling for a stand-alone vote on a path to citizenship for Dreamers." Pelosi "sought to assuage her caucus' concerns Thursday morning."

WPost, USA Today, WSJournal Among Those Defending Trump. The Washington Post (9/14, 10.38M) editorializes that it "doesn't often agree with...Trump, but we're on board with his observation that most Americans oppose deportation for 'dreamers," and believe he is "right to ratchet up the pressure on Congress to extend" DREAMers "the protections he is set to withdraw." Democrats "should reciprocate in good faith by providing new funding for border security." USA Today (9/14, 8.62M) editorializes on the "fierce backlash from conservatives, as well as opposition from the far left, where anything other than resistance to Trump is considered treasonous." Yet it also concludes that "assuming a deal gets done, it will provide something for both sides."

In an editorial, meanwhile, the <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (9/14, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) urges Trump to dismiss the criticism from some on the right, and predicts those same critics will be soon in his corner. To the Journal, an agreement on DACA would be a major accomplishment for the President.

Jim Acosta said on CNN's The Lead (9/14, 927K), "The President said he is getting close to a deal to help those Dreamers, but he did warn talking to reporters on Air Force One he's going to have to start working with Democrats if he's not getting enough cooperation from Republicans, and that capped a day of confusion for the White House as the President was being contradicted by his aides and vice versa all day long on the subject of immigration."

Juan Williams said on Fox News' Special Report (9/14, 1.88M), "Steve King, the Iowa congressman, said basically the President risks blowing up his base as this point. You think about that base...it's about 35, 40 percent. You think about the high retention of Republican support for the President. If that starts to deteriorate, if you get the Ann Coulter voices, the right wing talk radio voices pulling away from this President, that could crater what is not a high level of support for him in that base."

Tucker Carlson said on Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight (9/14, 2.46M), "It would be a massive amnesty, maybe the biggest ever granted in American history. This is thrilling news for Democrats and for open borders advocates everywhere. In return for this concession, the President receives nothing, no reduction in overall immigration totals, no tightened restriction on foreign workers who take jobs from Americans, no E-Verify to prevent illegal immigrants from working under the table, no end to chain migration. The President isn't even getting a border wall, though he insisted he will somehow get one later, possibly."

Hannity: Schumer And Pelosi Will "Stab The President In The Back." Sean Hannity said in his opening monologue on Fox News' Hannity (9/14, 2.58M) that Schumer and Pelosi are essentially claiming that "the Democrats get everything they want, they get DACA and the President doesn't get his wall. It is the one thing everybody needs to understand about Schumer and Pelosi. They don't like this President. They can't stand him. They want the President to fail and they certainly don't have his best interests at heart or in mind. Schumer and Pelosi only care about scoring cheap political points because they want to gain seats in 2018. ... As soon as it doesn't serve them politically, I can promise you, Chuck Schumer, Nancy Pelosi, they are going to turn around and stab the President in the back. That's a fact."



NBC News Analysis: "No Formal Plan" To Build Border Wall, "Obstacles Piling Up." NBC Nightly News (9/14, story 4, 2:05, Alexander, 16.61M) reported that "eight months into his presidency, there's no formal plan for building the kind of wall the President's been touting for two years. ... NBC has learned the study...Trump ordered in January on how to fully secure the border yet to be finalized." Moreover, "the obstacles are piling up," with "many construction firms fearing political retaliation are shying away from what typically would be a highly sought after and lucrative contract." Moreover, there is, NBC continued, "a wall of opposition" to "one of the President's top priorities."

TRUMP MEETS WITH IRMA SURVIVORS, PRAISES FEDERAL AND STATE RESPONSE. The President visited Southwest Florida yesterday to meet with Hurricane Irma survivors. The trip sparked largely favorable coverage, particularly on Florida print outlets and local TV newscasts. Encapsulating the tone of the reporting across much of the media spectrum, Aaron Blake writes in the Washington Post (9/14, 10.38M) the that visuals from the trip show "a guy who is actually pretty adept at pressing the flesh with not-necessarily-Trump-supporters and doing the small-talk thing. These are all good images for the White House." A number of reports, however, take a more critical tone when addressing Trump's encouragement to Gov. Rick Scott to challenge Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson in next year's elections. The CBS Evening News (9/14, story 3, 1:35, Evans, 11.17M), for example, said Trump "couldn't resist injecting a little politics," the AP (9/14, Lucey, Thomas) that he "couldn't resist injecting a political flavor into his visit," and the Los Angeles Times (9/14, Lee, McDonnell, 4.49M) that he "raised some eyebrows by injecting politics into Thursday's visit."

As the <u>Sunshine State (FL) News</u> (9/14, Smith) notes, the President "thanked...Scott for his work, saying he's doing an 'incredible' job" and adding, "I hope this man right here, Rick Scott, runs for the Senate." Scott "returned the compliment, praising the president half a dozen times during his four-minute remarks for his support even while Irma was thousands of miles away." The <u>New York Times</u> (9/14, Sullivan, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) says "Scott's compliment was notable, as the federal government's response to hurricanes is regularly measured against its botched efforts after Hurricane Katrina hit Louisiana in 2005." <u>Politico</u> (9/14, McCaskill, 3.6M) reports Scott "has publicly said he is weighing a Senate run, but he has insisted that he feels little pressure to make an early decision."

The Naples (FL) Daily News (9/14, Stanley, 142K), meanwhile, reports that in Naples, Trump "handed out half-sandwiches and bananas with the first lady, vice president and...Scott," and "met with a handful of residents who sat waiting on front lawns of the mobile home community, with punched out windows, collapsed porches and wrecked carports." In Fort Myers, the President "thanked the Marines, Navy, Army, National Guard, Federal Emergency Management Administration and everyone who helped keep lives safe during the hurricane."

WTVJ-TV Miami (9/14, 6:16 p.m. EDT, 30K) described the President as "consoler in chief, hugging and handshaking with folks clobbered by the fist of Hurricane Irma," and WFTX-TV Fort Myers, FL (9/14, 6:05 p.m. EDT, 16K) reported "people" say that "even though they've lost everything, they are encouraged by some personal attention from the White House." WTXL-TV Tallahassee, FL (9/14, 6:03 p.m. EDT, 10K) showed Trump saying, "The job that everybody has done is incredible. I just want to thank everybody, the first responders. We've seen the devastation." WPEC-TV West Palm Beach, FL (9/14, 5:09 p.m. ET, 34K), meanwhile, showed Vice President Pence saying, "We are with you today. We are going to be with you tomorrow, and we are going to be with you until Florida rebuilds bigger and better than ever before."

Upon his arrival in Florida, <u>USA Today</u> (9/14, Jackson, 8.62M) reports, Trump spoke "in front of a Coast Guard helicopter at Southwest Florida International Airport" to thank "first responders and other officials working to rescue stranded residents, restore utilities and ensure public safety – even thanking the media for keeping people informed."

Reporting on Trump's Naples stop, the CBS Evening News (9/14, story 3, 1:35, Evans, 11.17M)



showed a person in the crowd telling the President, "Where was Obama in the last hurricane? He was playing golf." Trump replied, "Was this a good vote?" The unidentified speaker responded, "Yes." Trump was shown saying, "He said best vote of his life." <u>ABC World News Tonight</u> (9/14, story 5, 0:25, Muir, 14.63M), meanwhile, only mentioned that Trump was in Florida "surveying the damage from...Irma" as the preface of a report on the path of Hurricane Jose, and <u>NBC Nightly News</u> (9/14, story 4, 2:05, Alexander, 16.61M) did the same at the tail end of a story that concluded Trump is struggling to fulfill his campaign promises.

Jim Acosta said on CNN's Situation Room (9/14, 979K) that Trump "did come face to face with some storm victims," and showed him saying, "We love the people of Florida. And they went through something I guess the likes that nobody's ever seen before. They've never seen a category like this coming. Because it came in really at a five. All you have to do is look what happened in the Keys. We love these people and we're going to be back and we're going to help and the job that everybody has done in terms of first responders and everybody has been incredible."

The AP (9/14, Lucey, Thomas) describes Trump as "brimming with enthusiasm for the state and federal response effort," and says he and the First Lady "encountered piles of broken siding and soggy furniture heaped on front porches, and residents who were happy to get a presidential visit." Said Trump, "We are there for you 100 percent. ... I'll be back here numerous times. This is a state that I know very well." NPR (9/14, Kelly, 2.4M) said that "the surrounding area was littered with downed trees and ripped-out signs; mobile homes were totaled; and tarps covered roofs, according to pool reports. Gas stations along the way advertised that they didn't have fuel."

The New York Times (9/14, Sullivan, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) similarly indicates that in his "third visit to storm-ravaged parts of the United States in the past few weeks after two major hurricanes," the President "again praised the federal government's performance," saying, "I think we're doing a good job in Florida." The Washington Times (9/14, Miller, 541K) notes he "commended" both Scott and the "fantastic" job FEMA "had done preparing and responding to the massive hurricane." Reuters (9/14, Oliphant) reports Trump also had praise for "first responders and local officials for their handling of the storm." Said Trump, "When you think of the incredible power of that storm, and while people unfortunately passed, it was such a small number. ... People thought thousands and thousands of people may have their lives ended and the number is a very small number, which is a great tribute to you." The Wall Street Journal (9/14, Ballhaus, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) runs a similar report.

The New York Post (9/14, Steinbuch, 4.31M) reports that "before leaving the White House on Thursday morning, Trump said that 'historically there's never been anything like this.'" He added, "But the United States Coast Guard, FEMA, working along with Gov. Scott, they've really done an amazing job. ... We have the largest assemblage of human beings ever in one area for power, and rapidly it's being turned on."

A couple of reports focused on Trump's offhand comments yesterday. Under the headline "Donald Trump Really Can't Stop Talking About His Hands," Vanity Fair (9/14, Weaver, 2.7M) reported that "Trump has been traveling to the southern parts of the country to respond to the first natural disasters of his presidency, or in his case, to talk about himself." When "he prepared to put on a pair of latex gloves while helping with Harvey relief earlier this month, Trump claimed 'his hands were too big' for the gloves," and "in a clear move to recycle his bit, he said the same thing while helping with Irma relief in Florida on Thursday." Business Insider (9/14, Abadi, 3.83M) ran a similar report.

Yoho Also Praises Recovery Effort. Rep. Ted Yoho said on CNN's Situation Room (9/14, 836K) that his district is "recovering. There's a stellar effort by everybody on the ground and I'm happy to report that all six of the counties in District 3 of north-central Florida got individual assistance where people can qualify for \$33,000 of assistance, public assistance and hazard assistance." Yoho added, "We have got 21,000 MREs coming in later on today and 10,000



gallons of water. Power is being put up. The important thing is that the FEMA money is here to help alleviate hazard release, picking up trash and debris. We're happy with the progression and I think the greatest thing I saw was people coming together as Americans, as we always do in tough times like this to make a tough situation better."

Trump To View Irma Relief Efforts In Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands. McClatchy (9/14, Daugherty, 67K) reports that the President will visit Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands "to view Hurricane Irma relief efforts first hand," Puerto Rican Gov. Ricardo Rosselló said Thursday. Rosselló "has been in regular communication with the White House over the past week and said that White House officials have pledged to support Puerto Rico's needs." According to McClatchy, Puerto Rico "sustained an estimated \$1 billion in damage from Irma, up from an initial estimate of \$600 million," and that "will play a role when Congress discusses an Irma relief package, which will cost billions of dollars after Irma moved through the Keys and along Florida's Gulf Coast."

Trump Dismisses Impact Of Climate Change On Hurricanes Harvey, Irma. The Hill (9/14, Henry, 1.68M) reports that following his visit to Florida, Trump "dismissed the impact of climate change on Hurricanes Harvey and Irma," telling reporters on Air Force One, "We've had bigger storms," and "ignor[ing] a question about his views on climate change, according to reporters traveling with him."

Jim Acosta said on <u>CNN's Situation Room</u> (9/14, 979K) that Trump said "he is not changing his mind on the issue," though "the scientific community believes that there is a very strong likelihood that there is a connection between climate change and...these violent storms that we're seeing not only here in the United States, but around the world. ... This remains a tough issue for this White House where you have the President of the United States essentially saying hasn't changed his mind on the issue of climate change. Apparently, he still believes it's a hoax, while officials inside the Administration agree climate change is happening. They just don't know what to do about it, and they don't know how to change the President's opinion on it."

SBA PROVIDING LOW-INTEREST DISASTER LOANS TO IRMA VICTIMS. The Jacksonville (FL) Daily Record (9/14, 346) reports that the state of Florida "is asking businesses that suffered damage from Hurricane Irma to report it to the Florida Virtual Business Emergency Operations Center." The information "will be shared among state and local agencies providing disaster relief for businesses." the Daily Record adds that "low-interest disaster loans also are available from the U.S. Small Business Administration to individuals, businesses and nonprofit organizations. The loans can be used for loss and damages not fully covered by insurance."

Scott Activates Loan Program To Aid Small Businesses Impacted By Irma. The Miami Herald (9/14, Harris, 701K) reported on its love blog that Gov. Rick Scott has "activated a loan program designed to support small businesses impacted by Hurricane Irma." Under the bridge loan program, small businesses that sustained physical or economic damage in the storm can receive "interest-free, short-term loans." Scott approved "up to \$10 million for the program, which is managed by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity."

IRMA'S AGRICULTURAL COST ESTIMATED IN THE BILLIONS. The Florida Farm Bureau said Thursday that "informal estimates suggest" the total agricultural cost of Hurricane Irma "will be in the billions," the Palm Beach (FL) Post (9/14, Salisbury, 273K) reports. Wind and rain from the storm "caused widespread destruction of crops, buildings, fencing and other property," with the most severe damage occurring in Southwest Florida.

FLORIDA FACING SHORTAGE OF INSURANCE ADJUSTERS. The <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (9/14, Scism, Friedman, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that a shortage of insurance adjusters could slow rebuilding efforts in the state. While insurers are rushing to get more adjusters to the state, the Journal says there is a bidding war for those currently available, with some homeowners raising fees paid to adjusters by 30 percent.



FPL PROMISES TO HAVE POWER ON BY SUNDAY ON FLORIDA'S EAST COAST. The Miami Herald (9/14, Rodriguez, 701K) reports that Florida Power & Light Co. "has doubled-down on its promise to have the electricity up and running for all homes and businesses on the state's east coast by the end of Sunday Sept. 17." The west coast, which sustained the greatest damage, "will be back online by Friday Sept. 22." FPL spokesman Bryan Garner said during a press conference Thursday morning that "FPL had restored service to 70 percent of its three million South Florida customers."

FOCUS IN FLORIDA KEYS TURNS TO RELIEF. Manuel Bojorquez reported on the CBS Evening News (9/14, story 7, 1:50, Mason, 11.17M) that the focus in the Florida Keys has turned to relief as Monroe County officials "have checked on all homes in the hardest hit areas and have found no additional victims." While water and food are "reaching those who stayed behind," running water may not be restored for days. In addition, "power and cell service are fully restored." Bojorquez added that because conditions "are still considered hazardous...it could be days before all residents of the Keys are allowed back in."

MOBILE HOME COMMUNITY TAKES "HORRIFIC HIT." The Fort Myers (FL) News-Press (9/14, Williams, 160K) reports that "Alva's Oak Park mobile home community took a horrific hit from the storm," and residents say "no county workers or other officials had yet come to survey the damage at their isolated enclave."

RAW SEWAGE BACKING UP ON LAWNS IN LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA. The Fort Myers (FL) News-Press (9/14, Dulaney, 160K) reports that in neighborhoods across Lee County, Florida, "raw sewage is backing up into residents' driveways and into their yards in the wake of Hurricane Irma." Fort Myers Public Works Director Richard Moulton said 32 lift stations, which "are used to collect sewage from a defined area – anywhere between 10 and 100 homes – and pump it to the city's wastewater plant" are without power in the city.

VA OPENS BEDS TO NURSING HOME RESIDENTS AFFECTED BY IRMA. The Miami Herald (9/14, Neal, 701K) reports that VA Secretary Shulkin announced Thursday that his agency "will open beds to non-Veteran nursing home residents affected by Hurricane Irma." Shulkin's move comes in the wake of "Wednesday's death of eight residents of a Hollywood nursing home steaming without air conditioning." Shulkin said, "We will continue to look for ways to relieve the hardship this powerful storm has caused. ... Much of the heavy-lifting to recover from the hurricane is still to come and our leaders and staff are determined to find as many ways as we can for VA to help in the response."

Police Obtain Search Warrant For Nursing Home Where Residents Died. Meanwhile, police in Hollywood Florida have obtained a search warrant "and can begin combing for evidence" in The Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills, where the eight senior citizens died, the South Florida Sun Sentinel (9/14, McMahon, Bryan, 530K) reports. While officials "are still figuring out what happened when and said they do not want to speculate or prematurely release incorrect information," Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration "on Wednesday put an immediate stop on all admissions to the nursing home at the direction of Gov. Rick Scott."

ABC World News Tonight (9/14, story 2, 3:30, Muir, 14.63M) described "what really played out inside that nursing home." ABC added that nursing home administrators "tell us they are going to cooperate fully with this investigation to figure out what went wrong." The CBS Evening News (9/14, story 6, 2:15, Mason, 11.17M) and NBC Nightly News (9/14, story 2, 2:10, Holt, 16.61M) also reported on the investigation into what occurred at the nursing home.

The New York Times (9/14, Reisner, Fink, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that a new federal rule created after Hurricane Katrina "will require that nursing homes have 'alternate sources of energy to maintain temperatures to protect resident health and safety," but it "will not be enforced until November, and even then, some patient advocates are concerned that it does not go far enough." The rule "does not specifically require backup generators for air-conditioning



systems," and in the wake of the deaths at the Florida nursing home, "some are questioning whether the rule should."

IRMA'S DEATH TOLL RISES TO 26. The <u>Naples (FL) Daily News</u> (9/14, Sarkissian, 142K) reports that at least 26 deaths have been attributed to Hurricane Irma, marking "an increase from the 12 announced by Scott's office earlier this week." The <u>Miami Herald</u> (9/14, Klas, 701K) says "the number of casualties is destined to grow as the total confirmed by county medical examiners, and reported to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, does not include the eight elders who died this week when their Broward nursing home became an oven, or the eight reported dead in the Keys, when winds hacksawed through their islands."

RELIEF SUPPLIES FLOWING INTO ST. MAARTEN. On ABC World News Tonight (9/14, story 3, 1:25, Muir, 14.63M), David Wright reported on the "devastation in St. Maarten...and the urgent effort to get people out." Wright said that while "relief supplies are flowing in," recovery "is going to take some time." NBC Nightly News (9/14, story 5, 1:40, Holt, 16.61M) also reported on recovery efforts in the Caribbean.

MODELS INDICATE TROPICAL STORM JOSE IS UNLIKELY TO COME ASHORE. ABC World News Tonight (9/14, story 5, 0:25, Muir, 14.63M) reported that Tropical Storm Jose is currently "about 400 miles east of the Bahamas, and it could go back to being a hurricane by this weekend." The storm is "forecast to move northward with eight-foot waves and dangerous rip currents along the east coast." ABC added that all of the models agree that Jose "will likely not come ashore."

OFFICIALS BELIEVE HURRICANE HARVEY DEATH TOLL IS "AT LEAST 82." The Washington Post (9/14, Moravec, 10.38M) reports that Texas officials said Thursday that the death toll from Hurricane Harvey is believed to be "at least 82 people," but "it could take weeks to determine the exact death toll." The Post says the number could have been significantly higher, "given the amount of flooding and that entire communities were cut off for days."

HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD DISTRICT SEEKING FUNDS FOR HARVEY-RELATED HOME BUYOUTS. A front-page story in the Washington Post (9/14, Whoriskey, Sullivan, 10.38M) reports that while the Houston suburb of Meyerland "has long presented a facade of prosperity and permanence," after "major floods" in 2015, 2016 and this year form Hurricane Harvey, "the envy is dissipating, replaced by the once-unthinkable idea that swaths of Meyerland ought to be abandoned and returned to nature." While "a retreat from a thriving neighborhood is a rarity in U.S. urban history," in Harvey's wake, "the notion is compelling enough in flood-prone communities that it has drawn support from leading planners in Houston." The Post adds that officials with the Harris County Flood Control District, which includes Houston, "announced last week that they are 'actively pursuing the funding necessary to proceed with Harvey-related home buyouts."

TRUMP REITERATES THAT THERE WERE "BAD DUDES" ON BOTH SIDES IN CHARLOTTESVILLE. NBC Nightly News (9/14, story 4, 2:05, Alexander, 16.61M) reported last night that "on the trip back from touring hurricane damage in Florida," the President "was asked about meeting with the Senate's only African-American Republican," Sen. Tim Scott, "and again brought up his controversial comments after Charlottesville that there were, in his words, 'bad dudes,' not just among the white supremacists but among the left-wing anti-fascist groups that came out to confront them." Politico (9/14, McCaskill, 3.6M) says Trump echoed "language that triggered a backlash against him last month," the New York Times (9/14, Landler, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) that he "thrust himself back into the racial storms of Charlottesville," and CNN (9/14, Collins, 33.59M) that he "maintained...his controversial position."

The <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/14, Westwood, 465K) notes that the President said of his talk with Scott, "We had a great conversation. ... I think especially in light of the advent of Antifa, if you look at what's going on there. You have some pretty bad dudes on the other side also and essentially



that's what I said." Added the President, "Now because of what's happened since then with Antifa. When you look at really what's happened since Charlottesville, a lot of people are saying and people have actually written, 'Gee, Trump may have a point.' I said there's some very bad people on the other side also. ... But we had a great conversation."

"Asked about Trump's latest remarks," Scott told Politico (9/14, McCaskill, 3.6M) that the President "is who he has been. ... I wanted to inform and educate a different perspective. I think we accomplished that. To assume that immediately thereafter that he's immediately going to have an epiphany is unrealistic." CNN (9/14, Collins, 33.59M) notes that in a statement, Scott also said, "Rome wasn't built in a day, and to expect the President's rhetoric to change based on one 30-minute conversation is unrealistic. ... Antifa is bad and should be condemned, yes, but the KKK has been killing and tormenting black Americans for centuries. There is no realistic comparison. Period."

Trump Signs Resolution Condemning Hatred, Bigotry, Racism. The Washington Times (9/14, Miller, 541K) reports the President "signed a resolution Thursday that condemned the deadly violence at a white nationalist demonstration last month in Charlottesville, Virginia, saying he was pleased to sign it." The President said in his signing statement, "As Americans, we condemn the recent violence in Charlottesville and oppose hatred, bigotry, and racism in all forms. ... No matter the color of our skin or our ethnic heritage, we all live under the same laws, we all salute the same great flag, and we are all made by the same almighty God. ... We are a Nation founded on the truth that all of us are created equal. As one people, let us move forward to rediscover the bonds of love and loyalty that bring us together as Americans."

<u>USA Today</u> (9/14, Korte, 8.62M) says the signing "came just hours after he once again compared white supremacists, neo-Nazis and the KKK to the anti-fascist 'antifa' movement, repeating some of the very remarks that led Congress to pass the resolution in the first place." <u>Politico</u> (9/14, Lima, 3.6M) also reports Trump signed the resolution "despite his equivocating on the matter."

U-Va Will Spend Amount Equivalent To 1921 KKK Donation To Help Charlottesville Injured. The Washington Post (9/14, Svrluga, 10.38M) reports the University of Virginia has announced it "will help pay the medical expenses of people injured during clashes with white supremacists in Charlottesville last month, in an amount equivalent to money that was pledged to the university by the Ku Klux Klan in 1921." U-Va president Teresa A. Sullivan said the KKK's "\$1,000 pledge, if inflated to today's dollars, would be worth about \$12,400. With that number in mind, I have allocated \$12,500 from private sources to the 'Charlottesville Patient Support Fund.'"

Rohrabacher: Democrats Were Behind Charlottesville Rally That Ended In Violence. Writing for the San Francisco Chronicle (9/14, Garofoli, 3.31M), Joe Garofoli discusses a recent interview he conducted with Rep. Dana Rohrabacher. Garofoli says Rohrabacher thinks "that Democrats were behind last month's white nationalist riots in Charlottesville, Va. ... Under Rohrabacher's scenario, a former 'Hillary and Bernie supporter' got Civil War re-enactors to gather under the guise of protecting a Robert E. Lee statue there. 'It was a setup for these dumb Civil War re-enactors,' Rohrabacher said. 'It was left-wingers who were manipulating them in order to have this confrontation' and to 'put our president on the spot.'"

Berkeley Boosted Security, Offered Counseling To Students Ahead Of Speech By Ben Shapiro. The Los Angeles Times (9/14, Panzar, Oreskes, Watanabe, 4.49M) reported Thursday that "to see what free speech looks like in 2017 at the birthplace of the famed movement, consider the elaborate preparations underway for a talk Thursday by a conservative writer." Ben Shapiro, adds the Times, "isn't nearly as controversial as some right-wing speakers who have roiled the campus over the last year," yet "UC Berkeley has told students that counseling is available to those stressed by all the commotion." Moreover, "a large swath of the campus will be closed off, including the plaza where the free speech movement began in the 1960s." UC Berkeley chancellor Carol T. Christ "has said allowing these talks is essential, trumpeting the belief that the best response to hate speech is 'more speech' rather than trying to shut down



others."

The <u>Los Angeles Times</u> (9/14, Panzar, Tchekmedyian, 4.49M) reports that as Shapiro spoke, "a large group of protesters marched around the campus amid intense security triggered by a recent series of violent clashes between far-left and far-right protesters." Ultimately, "authorities arrested at least three people for carrying banned weapons," as "before the event, police temporarily banned sticks, pipes, poles and anything else they said could be used to riot." The Times adds that "one of the three held, 20-year-old Hannah Benjamin, was also arrested on suspicion of battery on a police officer, Berkeley police said."

WPost A1: Antifa's Unifying Idea Is That Free Speech Secondary To "Squashing Fascism." On its front page, the Washington Post (9/14, A1, Miller, 10.38M) recalls the "the Aug. 27 protest in Berkeley" that led to "images broadcast across the country" showing how "more than 100 antifa activists leapt over barricades and stormed Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park, attacking a handful of...Trump supporters and right-wing activists." In DC, "authorities fear the far-left activists will strike again Saturday, when the Mall will host the 'Juggalo March' – a gathering of fans of the rap group Insane Clown Posse – and a pro-Trump event dubbed the Mother of All Rallies." The Post adds that "interviews with a dozen antifa activists show they come from a variety of backgrounds and are only loosely affiliated. ... While they are all open to using violence, some embrace it – even glorify it." In fact, "what unites them is the belief that free speech is secondary to squashing fascism before it takes root in the United States."

TRUMP TO HOLD CONFERENCE WITH JEWISH LEADERS. The New York Times (9/14, Haberman, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports the President "will hold a conference call on Friday morning with Jewish leaders ahead of the High Holy Days, moving ahead with a standard White House event that several rabbinical groups have vowed to boycott." The Times adds that "issues related to the Jewish community have been problematic for the president throughout his presidency." For example, the Times cites "a statement from the White House on Holocaust Remembrance Day made no mention of the millions of Jews who were killed, instead focusing on 'all' who suffered," and "the president's statement that there were 'very fine people' among the white supremacists rallying in Charlottesville prompted an outcry."

NYTIMES A1: TRUMP "BERATED" SESSIONS AFTER APPOINTMENT OF MUELLER. Citing "current and former administration officials and others briefed on the matter," the New York Times (9/14, A1, Schmidt, Haberman, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports on its front page, "Shortly after learning in May that a special counsel had been appointed to investigate links between his campaign associates and Russia, President Trump berated Attorney General Jeff Sessions in an Oval Office meeting and said the attorney general should resign." Trump, says the Times, "blamed the appointment of [Special Counsel Robert Mueller] on Mr. Sessions's decision to recuse himself from the Justice Department's Russia investigation." The Times adds that "accusing Mr. Sessions of 'disloyalty,' Mr. Trump unleashed a string of insults on his attorney general," who "told the president he would quit and sent a resignation letter to the White House." The Times adds that Sessions "would later tell associates that the demeaning way the president addressed him was the most humiliating experience in decades of public life."

Maggie Haberman of the New York Times said on CNN's The Lead (9/14, 927K) that the President saw Sessions' decision to recuse himself from the Russia investigations as "form of a betrayal it seems. In an Oval Office meeting in May, as they were trying to pick a new FBI director, they learned that Robert Mueller had been appointed as special council and the President just unloaded on his attorney general – called him an idiot, said he was one of the worst decisions he made, said he should resign. And Sessions. who got emotional during this, said he would. He left, ultimately produced a letter of resignation. The President then was talked out of accepting [it] by some aides. ... Their relationship has improved to some extent, but it's never going to be what it was. The degree of anger the President has at Jeff Sessions I think is never going to totally abate." CNN's Situation Room (9/14, 979K) also reported on the Times' story.



Cillizza: Sessions Incident Highlights Trump's "Volcanic Temper." Under the heading "The Volcanic Temper Of Donald Trump," Chris Cillizza – writing on the website of CNN (9/14, Cillizza, 33.59M) – highlighted the "stunning" report from the Times, then added, "This temper tantrum from Trump is not an isolated incident. Far from it." Cillizza cited several examples of what he said demonstrated Trump's temper, saying, for instance, that the President "fumed backstage before his Phoenix campaign rally last month as TV cameras showed a less-than-full arena. George Gigicos, who was handling the advance work for the event, was let go as a result of Trump's displeasure." Cillizza added that "Trump's temper is a feature, not a glitch."

USA TODAY ANALYSIS: CONGRESSIONAL PANELS IN RUSSIA PROBE "TRIPPING OVER ONE ANOTHER." Under the headline "Congress Struggles To Figure Out Which Russia Investigation Trumps The Others," <u>USA Today</u> (9/14, Kelly, 8.62M) reports, "The three congressional committees investigating Russian interference in the 2016 election often overlap but rarely coordinate, creating a legal quagmire for witnesses and challenges for...Mueller as he conducts a separate criminal probe." USA Today says the panels "have been tripping over one another in recent months in the competition for witnesses and information. One of the most egregious examples – according to four congressional aides" – happened "in July when investigators for the House Intelligence Committee traveled to London to try to contact Christopher Steele, the former British spy who compiled a dossier on Donald Trump and his alleged ties to the Russian government." GOP members of the panel "did not tell the committee's Democrats, Mueller, or the Senate Intelligence Committee that they were sending two staff investigators to London."

Stone To Appear Before House Intelligence Panel. The AP (9/14, Pace) reports that Roger Stone, a longtime confidante of Trump, "says he will appear before the House intelligence committee on Sept. 26." Stone "says the session is currently closed, though he asked previously for his appearance to be public. He says he's asking for the 'immediate release' of transcripts from his appearance so there will be 'no confusion or misinformation' about his appearance."

Politico (9/14, Cheney, 3.6M) reported that while Stone "has boasted of his connections to Wikileaks founder Julian Assange," he "has denied any improper contacts with Russians or their allies in the course of the 2016 campaign. But Democrats have pointed to his tweets in the summer of 2016 that seemed to presage the mass release of emails by Wikileaks as potential evidence of collusion between Trump associates and Russia." Stone "aroused suspicion in August last year when he claimed to have communicated with Assange" and "also acknowledged exchanging messages with Guccifer 2.0, a persona believed to be the front for Russia's operation to hack the Democratic National Committee." The Hill (9/14, Williams, 1.68M) quoted Stone as saying on Thursday, "I very much look forward to testifying and I am anxious to correct a number of the misstatements by committee members regarding my activities in 2016."

Gowdy Says White House Press Secretary Should Refer Criminal Claims To DOJ. The Washington Times (9/14, Persons, 541K) reports that during a Thursday appearance on Fox News, House Oversight Committee Chairman Rep. Trey Gowdy (R) said that White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders "should refer criminal allegations to the Department of Justice rather than talk about them with reporters. 'If it's that clean and clear I'm sure she's referred it to the Department of Justice," the South Carolina lawmaker said, "referring to Ms. Sanders' claim at the White House briefing Wednesday that it was 'pretty clean and clear' that former FBI Director James Comey broke the law by leaking internal FBI memos he wrote after various meetings with President Trump." Gowdy later added, "Alleging criminal violations is very serious, which is why I don't do it. If you have evidence of a crime, instead of sharing it with a gaggle of reporters, share it with the people who can actually do something about it."

AP Analysis: Amid Mueller Investigation, GOP Attacks On Comey Intensify. The AP (9/14, Tucker) reports that GOP "attacks that accompanied the firing of...Comey have sharply intensified in the last two weeks, with broadsides delivered on Twitter, public statements and even from the



White House podium." The AP says Comey "has been repeatedly accused of delivering false testimony, of prematurely exonerating Hillary Clinton for her use of a private email server and of improperly leaking details about his private conversations with the president. The attacks, which come as Congress and federal investigators probe the circumstances of his dismissal, appear clearly designed to undercut the credibility of "Comey, "whose testimony and vivid first-person accounts loom as central to special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation."

White House Denies Seeking Anonymous Legal Donations, Despite Ethics Modification. The Washington Examiner (9/14, Nelson, 465K) reported that the White House "denies pushing to allow anonymous donor including lobbyists to fund lawyers for White House staff, but critics fear elimination of a one-sentence disclaimer may make it possible." The Examiner added, "The current concern centers on a long-ignored but never rescinded 1993 legal opinion that said donors to outside legal funds should be kept secret to ensure a recipient 'does not know who the paymasters are.' Since the mid-1990s, the Office of Government Ethics ignored this opinion and instead required legal defense funds to regularly disclosure donors." The Examiner said that then-OGE director Walter Shaub "in May ordered a disclaimer attached to the office's 1993 legal opinion, saying in all caps that it was invalid. After Shaub's resignation, the disclaimer was modified to say the opinion remains in effect."

Rohrabacher Yet To Talk With Trump About What He Learned At Meeting With Assange. The Los Angeles Times (9/14, Wire, 4.49M) reports that Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA) on Thursday said "he hasn't yet arranged a meeting with President Trump to discuss what he learned from WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange about the theft of Democratic emails during the 2016 election." Rohrabacher told the Times, "The meeting has not been put on the calendar yet, but I have spoken to senior people at the White House about arranging a meeting. I have to believe it will happen, yes. It's an important issue." The Times adds that Rohrabacher last month "traveled to London to meet with Assange, who remains in asylum in the Ecuadorian embassy there. He said they discussed a potential presidential pardon in exchange for information on the theft of emails from the Democratic National Committee, which were published by WikiLeaks before the 2016 presidential election. Rohrabacher said in a statement that Assange 'emphatically stated that the Russians were not involved.'"

Writing for the <u>San Francisco Chronicle</u> (9/14, Garofoli, 3.31M), Joe Garofoli discusses a recent interview he conducted with Rohrabacher, in which the Republican said of US intelligence agencies having concluded that Russia interfered in the 2016 election, "That story is a total fabrication in order to do one thing: To prevent Donald Trump from exercising the legitimate authority he was given by the voters in the last election."

Castro: Hopefully Social Media Companies Will Cooperate In Dealing With Foreign Meddling. Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-TX), a member of the House Intelligence and Foreign Affairs Committees, said on CNN's Situation Room (9/14, 979K) that from what he's seen, Russia's social media effort in its election interference "was pretty aggressive." He said the exploitation of social media by adversaries is "going to be a problem that we're going to have to really tackle and solve in earnest, and I hope that Facebook and Twitter and other social media platforms will be willing to work with the congress to fix this."

TRUMP RIPS RICE'S UNMASKING OF TRANSITION OFFICIALS AS "JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG." The Washington Times (9/14, Miller, 541K) reports that President Trump on Thursday said that ex-national security adviser Susan Rice's admission "that she unmasked the identities of Trump transition team officials caught up in national security surveillance was 'just the tip of the iceberg," condemning "her actions as 'wrong." Rice, who served under President Obama, "told House investigators that she had spy agencies identify Trump officials when the crown prince of the United Arab Emirates visited New York in December, when Mr. Trump was president-elect and the transition was underway." Speaking with reporters on Thursday, Trump said of Rice, "She's not supposed to be doing that and what she did was wrong," adding, "We've been saying that. It's just the tip of the iceberg."



The <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/14, Quinn, 465K) further quoted Trump as saying that Rice wasn't "supposed to be doing that. You know it. The unmasking and the surveillance, and I heard she admitted that yesterday. Just not right." <u>The Hill</u> (9/14, Easley, 1.68M) said, "CNN reported on Wednesday that Rice told House investigators that in December – after Trump had won the election and before his inauguration – she authorized the unmasking of the identities of his advisers Michael Flynn, Stephen Bannon and Jared Kushner in an intelligence report" over their meeting with UAE's crown prince.

Catherine Herridge reported on Fox News' Special Report (9/14, 1.88M) that sources say Rice "offered 'vast and varied' explanations for requesting the names of Trump transition team members" caught up in foreign surveillance. One source reportedly said Rice told lawmakers "she was bothered by a meeting reportedly between Jared Kushner, Steve Bannon, incoming National Security Advisor Mike Flynn, and the United Arab Emirates crown prince. Rice said the Gulf delegation had asked for a meeting with President Obama and then canceled, because they said they weren't coming to the US," but they "then came quietly to see the Trump team." An intelligence official disputed that claim, saying the UAE had asked for a meeting with Obama, but the White House "dropped the ball." According to Herridge, multiple sources say lawmakers found Rice's explanations "dubious."

However, Wolf Blitzer reported on <u>CNN's Situation Room</u> (9/14, 979K) that "sources tell CNN that lawmakers, even Republicans, were satisfied with [Rice's] testimony and concluded she didn't do anything improper." Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-TX) told Blitzer, "I can say when she left the room, I think from what I could tell, all of us were convinced that she had acted professionally and well within the law."

Harsanyi: Rice "Lied" About Not Being Aware Of Unmasking Of Trump Officials. Under the heading "Susan Rice Lied About Her Role In Obama Admin Unmasking Scandal," David Harsanyi wrote for The Federalist (9/14, 88K) that in March of this year, then-House Intelligence Committee Chairman Rep. Devin Nunes (R) revealed "that the Obama administration had conducted incidental surveillance collection and unmasking of Trump administration officials," saying, "I have seen intelligence reports that clearly show that the president-elect and his team were, I guess, at least monitored." Harsanyi wrote that Rice, in an interview with PBS on the same day, was "asked to respond to Nunes' accusation that she had unmasked those Trump officials." Asked by NPR if she knew "anything about this," Rice replied, "I know nothing about this. I was surprised to see reports from Chairman Nunes on that count today."

Writing for National Review (9/14, 892K), David French also discussed Rice's response in the NPR interview and added, "Over time, however, her story evolved. She later clarified that she was simply saying that she didn't know 'what reports Nunes was referring to.' In April she said she never did anything "untoward with respect to the intelligence" she received. So, what was the truth? Did she 'know nothing' or did she do nothing 'untoward'? Those aren't the same statements, and the differences matter." French added that Rice "may seek high office again. We have to learn the truth about her conduct in office, and we cannot sweep even one more lie under the rug."

WHITE HOUSE PRESSING STATE TO SPEED UP RELEASE OF CLINTON EMAILS. The Washington Times (9/14, A1, Scarborough, 541K) reports that the White House "has been privately urging the State Department to speed up its protracted process for releasing Hillary Clinton's still-undisclosed emails." That "pressure from the White House may be working. On Thursday, the State Department released a batch of Clinton-related emails that show how she honored requests from Clinton Foundation and campaign donors to pull some strings. The department turned over to Judicial Watch, a government watchdog group, 1,617 pages of documents, including 97 email exchanges not previously disclosed." The Times adds, "The irony is, Trump administration attorneys have been in court defending the State Department's desire for a slow security review process before release, which a district court judge approved."



After Modifying Initial Decision, FBI To Release More Clinton Investigation Documents. In another report, the Washington Times (9/14, Dinan, 541K) says, "Weeks after saying there wasn't enough public interest in...Clinton's email case, the FBI's decision has been modified, and the bureau will publicly release more details of its obstruction of justice probe into the former secretary of state. The Justice Department confirmed the new position in a letter Thursday to Ty Clevenger, a lawyer who'd filed an open-records request for the information." DOJ "official Sean R. O'Neill said after speaking with Mr. Clevenger, they have concluded that the records in question are part of the Clinton email investigation file, which he said they're already making public in installments. 'Any records concerning the FBI's investigation of obstruction of justice are currently being processed by the FBI along with the remainder of the Clinton email investigation file. The FBI is publicly posting all releasable records on a rolling basis,' he said."

Townhall's Pavlich: Clinton, Abedin Emails "Show Further Mishandling Of Classified Information." Writing at Townhall (9/14, 523K), Katie Pavlich said that Judicial Watch has "released a new batch of emails, more than 1600 pages worth, belonging to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and longtime aide Huma Abedin. The emails, released by the State Department as part of a lawsuit, show further mishandling of classified information. The list of egregious incidents is long, including exposure of a classified conversation about US-Israeli relations, the war against drug cartels in Mexico, details about Clinton's arrival in war torn Afghanistan, Afghanistan elections and much more." Pavlich highlighted some of the specific examples listed by Judicial Watch.

Emails: Abedin's Mother Urged Clinton Not To Mention "Freedom" In Saudi Speech. The Washington Times (9/14, Ernst, 541K) reports that according to the batch of emails released by Judicial Watch, former Secretary of State Clinton "and her team refrained from mentioning 'freedom' during a 2010 speech in Saudi Arabia at the behest of Saleha Abedin," Huma Abedin's mother. The Times says Saleha Abedin, "a sociology lecturer at a women's college in Jeddah, helped craft a Feb. 16, 2010, speech that omitted any reference to 'freedom' or 'democracy.' 'Talk to my mom for sure,' Ms. Abedin told speechwriter Case Button on Feb. 12, 2010. 'She will have good points for you...' Saleha Abedin's 'IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER' email sent on the same day included instructions," among others, "Do not use the political terms such as 'democracy/elections/freedom."

White House Press Secretary Dismisses Clinton's "Excuse[s]" For Losing. Asked about Hillary Clinton calling for the elimination of the Electoral College, White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said on Fox News' Fox & Friends (9/14, 1.9M), "I think Hillary Clinton – this is about the 900th excuse that she's given for why she lost, and I think this book tour has done nothing but prove to America they were right in the decision that they made in putting Donald Trump in the Oval Office and not Hillary Clinton. She has just reidentified all of the reasons that she was not going to be a good candidate and that she wasn't going to be a successful President, and that's why is they chose Donald Trump."

The New Yorker Reveals Cover It Would Have Published Had Clinton Won. The New Yorker on Thursday morning tweeted, "This is the cover we would have published had Hillary Clinton defeated Donald Trump." The tweet included a link to a brief New Yorker article, published a day earlier, titled, "If Hillary Clinton Had Won: The New Yorker Cover," that showed "the cover 'The First,' by Malika Favre, that the New Yorker would have published had Clinton defeated Donald Trump to become the first female Commander-in-Chief." USA Today (9/14, Miller, 8.62M) reports that the never-to-be "cover depicts Clinton at night staring out a window that appears to be in the Oval Office." After "Trump's election, The New Yorker published Bob Staake's 'The Wall' on its cover, an image of a brick wall, partially built, that covered the lower half of 'New' in the magazine's name."

IN LEAKED MEMO, MCMASTER TELLS AGENCIES TO WARN STAFF AGAINST LEAKING INFORMATION. BuzzFeed (9/13, 6.64M) reports that National Security Adviser McMaster "has



directed government departments and agencies to warn employees across the entire federal government next week about the dangers and consequences of leaking even unclassified information." In a memo "obtained by BuzzFeed News...McMaster details a request that 'every Federal Government department and agency' hold a one-hour training next week on 'unauthorized disclosures' – of classified and certain unclassified information." BuzzFeed calls the move "a dramatic step that could greatly expand what type of leaks are under scrutiny and who will be scrutinized."

MNUCHIN SAYS REQUEST TO USE GOVERNMENT JET WAS BASED ON NEED FOR SECURE COMMUNICATIONS. David Muir reported on ABC World News Tonight (9/14, story 9, 2:00, Muir, 14.63M) that Treasury Secretary Mnuchin is facing a "firestorm over his personal travel." This, after it was reported that he "asked to take a government plane on his overseas honeymoon" and "another controversial trip on a government plane," after which "his wife post[ed] a photo on Instagram, tagging all the high end designer labels she was wearing during that trip." Brian Ross added that Mnuchin "confirmed the ABC News report that he requested a government aircraft for his European honeymoon last month," but "said it wasn't a question of luxury for him and his wife, Louise, but one of having access to secure communications." President Trump "said he was unaware of the request, that he doubted Mnuchin would have done anything wrong, calling him a straight shooter."

In comments to Politico (9/14, Conway, 3.6M), Mnuchin "described the controversy over the request as overblown." Mnuchin said, "Let me be clear: I'm very sensitive to the use of government funds. ... I've never asked the government to pay for my personal travel, and this was purely about alternatives of how I'd be able to be involved for national security." The CBS Evening News (9/14, story 11, 0:25, Mason, 11.17M) also briefly reported on the controversy.

In an op-ed for <u>USA Today</u> (9/14, 8.62M), Norman Eisen, chief White House ethics lawyer for President Obama, writes that "there is already reason to believe that Mnuchin's honeymoon request was another attempt by one of the wealthiest members of the Trump administration to get a government freebie." Eisen argues that the matter must be "assessed in the context of his apparent repeated disregard for other ethics issues" including his failure "to disclose \$100 million in assets from his initial financial disclosure form," his use of his "his government position to promote the Lego Batman movie he produced," and his placement of "his wife in a business position that raised ethics issues until it was reversed." Eisen adds that President Trump "has created the environment for these kinds of serial ethics problems through his own contempt for ethics and law."

SENATE PANEL APPROVES FOUR TRUMP JUDICIAL NOMINEES. The Washington Times (9/14, Swoyer, 541K) reports the Senate Judiciary Committee "advanced four of President Trump's judicial nominees Thursday, including one appeals court pick who won unanimous approval from the panel." The committee "voted 20-0 for District Court Judge Ralph Ericsson for the 8th US Circuit Court of Appeals. Senators also approved two of Mr. Trump's district court judges, Donald Coggins Jr. for the District of South Carolina and Dabney Friedrich for the District of Columbia, by voice votes." However, "the committee was more divided on Stephen Schwartz, Mr. Trump's nominee for the US Court of Federal Claims, clearing him on an 11-9 party-line vote" after Democrats claimed he lacked enough legal experience.

ADMINISTRATION MAY REPLACE OBAMA CLIMATE RULE RATHER THAN REPEAL IT. Politico (9/14, Holden, 3.6M) reports that the Trump Administration is indicating that it may offer "its own replacement for former President Barack Obama's landmark climate regulation — rather than just erasing it altogether." Politico cites "a source close to the process" who said that the EPA "aims by early October to issue a proposal to undo Obama's climate rule, along with a separate advance notice of its intent to consider a replacement." Politico adds that while such a "mend-it-don't-end-it approach on Obama's 2015 rule could appease power companies that say the EPA needs to impose some kind of climate regulation," it "would run afoul of demands from some conservative activists, who have pressured EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt to reject the idea



that climate change is a problem requiring federal action."

TRUMP TO SPEND MAJORITY OF WEEK IN NYC AT PALACE HOTEL. Politico (9/14, Karni, 3.6M) reports that when President Trump returns to Manhattan next week, he is "scheduled to spend more time at the Lotte New York Palace Hotel than at his own Trump Tower." A draft schedule shared with New York City law enforcement shows that Trump "will arrive at his home in Trump Tower on Sunday afternoon," but "is set to spend the majority of his week holed up in meetings at the Lotte New York Palace Hotel, on Madison Avenue." White House staff will be work "out of the hotel, which will also serve as central command for the State Department and the setting for many of the US-hosted bilateral meetings, a source familiar with the planning for the General Assembly said."

DOW SETS RECORD AS S&P AND NASDAQ SLIDE. The Dow reached a record high Thursday while the S&P 500 and Nasdaq "moved lower after a Labor Department report showed consumer prices rose more than expected in August," Reuters (9/14) reports. The Dow "rose 0.2 percent to end at 22,203.48 points, while the S&P 500 lost 0.11 percent to 2,495.62" and the Nasdaq "dropped 0.48 percent to 6,429.08."

ROSENSTEIN SIGNALS UPCOMING CHANGES ON CORPORATE-CRIME PROSECUTION POLICY. Politico (9/14, Gerstein, 3.6M) reports in its "Under The Radar" blog that Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein "indicated Thursday that the federal government's policy on prosecuting corporate crime is under review and he suggested that changes to the department's stance on the issue are coming. 'It's under review and I anticipate that there may be some change to the policy on corporate prosecutions," Rosenstein said "during a question-and-answer session following a speech at the conservative Heritage Foundation in Washington." Rosenstein added, "I don't have any announcement about that today, but I do anticipate that we may in the near future make an announcement about what changes we're going to make to corporate fraud principles." According to Politico, the Justice Department's current policy, "announced by Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates in September 2015, aimed to increase prosecutions of individuals responsible for criminal acts committed during work for corporations."

POMPEO CANCELS HARVARD SPEECH AFTER CHELSEA MANNING NAMED FELLOW.

The AP (9/14, Riechmann) reports that CIA Director Pompeo canceled his planned Thursday appearance at Harvard University "over the school's decision to make Chelsea Manning, who was convicted of leaking classified information, a visiting fellow." Pompeo called Manning an "American traitor," and "said he agreed with military and intelligence officials who believe Manning's leak endangered the lives of CIA personnel."

The Washington Examiner (9/14, Corell, 465K) reports that Pompeo wrote in a letter on Thursday, "After much deliberation in the wake of Harvard's announcement of American traitor Chelsea Manning as a visiting fellow at the Institute of Politics, my conscience and duty to the men and women at the Central Intelligence Agency will not permit me to betray their trust by appearing to support Harvard's decision with my appearance at tonight's event." The Boston Herald (9/14, 404K) reports that Pompeo, "who has a law degree from Harvard, said he didn't make the decision lightly."

Morell Resigns Harvard Post. The Washington Times (9/14, Richardson, 541K) reports that former CIA Acting Director Michael Morell on Thursday resigned as a non-resident senior fellow from Harvard's Kennedy School after Chelsea Manning was named a visiting fellow. In his resignation letter, Morell said he could not be part of an organization that "honors a convicted felon and leaker of classified information."

The Hill (9/14, Beavers, 1.68M) reports that while Morell "acknowledged that his fellowship through the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs is different from the school's Institute of Politics, he said he has 'an obligation' to...his conscience and country to 'make the fundamental point that leaking classified information is disgraceful and damaging to our nation."



The <u>Daily Caller</u> (9/14, 521K) reports CIA Director Pompeo "applauded" Morell for resigning his post in a letter Pompeo sent Thursday announcing his cancellation of an upcoming Harvard speech following Manning's fellowship invitation. The <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/14, Correll, 465K) reports that Mitt Romney also "praised" Morell for his decision, <u>tweeting</u>, "Well done, Mike. And abject shame on Harvard."

<u>Politico</u> (9/14, McCaskill, 3.6M) reports that Manning "cheered Morell's exit, tweeting 'good.' She later pinned a <u>tweet</u> to her Twitter page: 'no more secrecy, surveillance, torture, murder, and genocide,' it reads. 'abolish the @cia.'"

Following Protests, Harvard Withdraws Fellowship For Manning. Following protests from Pompeo and Morell, Harvard's Kennedy School of Government early on Friday morning withdrew its invitation for Chelsea Manning to be a visiting fellow. CNN (9/14, Lang, Watkins, 598K) reports that the school "withdrew the offer early Friday morning following controversy." Dean Douglas Elmendorf said in a statement, according to NBC News (9/15, 3.46M), "I now think that designating Chelsea Manning as a visiting fellow was a mistake, for which I accept responsibility. I still think that having her speak in the Forum and talk with students is consistent with our longstanding approach, which puts great emphasis on the value of hearing from a diverse collection of people. But I see more clearly now that many people view a Visiting Fellow title as an honorific, so we should weigh that consideration when offering invitations." Still, the New York Post (9/15, Tacopino, 4.31M) reports that Harvard "invited the convicted leaker to give a talk at the school."

MCCONNELL-BACKED GROUP'S POLL SHOWS MOORE LEADING STRANGE 41%-40%. In a report on the Alabama special election for the former seat of Attorney General Sessions, the Washington Examiner (9/14, Drucker, 465K) said that a survey of 604 likely Republican primary voters, conducted Sept. 9-10 by GOP pollster Jan van Lohuize, shows ex-state Supreme Court Justice Roy Moore leading appointed Sen. Luther Strange 41%-40% in the Sept. 26 GOP primary runoff. The poll was commissioned by the Senate Leadership Fund, a super PAC operated by allies of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who – along with President Trump – is backing Strange in the election. The report did not say how many voters were undecided. The Examiner added, "The RealClearPolitics average of recent polls in this race show Moore with a more substantial lead, 44.4 percent to 33.4 percent." The Huntsville (AL) Times (9/14, Gattis, 734K) reports, "Other polls independent of the SLF has consistently had Moore with a double-digit lead over Strange. No poll since the Aug. 15 primary has reflected Strange in the lead."

The Washington Times (9/14, McLaughlin, 541K) reports, "Backed by evangelical voters and riding a wave of anti-Washington sentiment...Moore is surging in the" contest, "threatening to upend the GOP establishment." The Times says that Moore, who polls show leading Strange, "won the backing this week of a political action committee that boosted President Trump in last year's campaign. But the endorsement by Great American PAC is all the more stunning because Mr. Trump has endorsed Mr. Strange in the race."

Moore: 9/11 Attacks May Have Been Punishment For US Spurning God. On its website, CNN (9/14, Kaczynski, McDermott, 33.59M) reported that Moore "suggested earlier this year that the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks might have happened because the US had distanced itself from God." CNN added that in a video of Moore addressing the Open Door Baptist Church in February, he "quotes verses from the Old Testament's Book of Isaiah," saying, "Because you have despised His word and trust in perverseness and oppression, and say thereon...therefore this iniquity will be to you as a breach ready to fall, swell out in a high wall, whose breaking cometh suddenly at an instance." Moore "added: 'Sounds a little bit like the Pentagon, whose breaking came suddenly at an instance, doesn't it?'"

Drawing from the CNN report, The Hill (9/14, Manchester, 1.68M) quoted Moore as further saying, "If you think that's coincidence, if you go to verse 25, 'there should be up on every high



mountain and upon every hill rivers and streams of water in the day of the great slaughter when the towers will fall." Moore then added, "You know, we've suffered a lot in this country, maybe, just maybe, because we've distanced ourselves from the one that has it within his hands to heal this land." He "went on to say that God could be upset with Americans for legitimizing sodomy and abortion."

Palin To Stump For Moore In Alabama. In an "exclusive," Breitbart (9/13, Boyle, 2.42M) reported that Sarah Palin will travel to Alabama next week to stump for Moore. Breitbart said, "The event with Palin will be part of a bus tour put on by the Great America Alliance, an organization of grassroots activists solidly in support of the agenda President Trump campaigned on last year." Breitbart quoted "a source familiar with" Palin's plans as saying that she "plans to barnstorm Alabama the week prior to the special election to double down on her strongly stated support of Judge Moore."

NRCC OFFICIAL SAYS THERE'S "NO INDICATION" TRUMP WILL WADE INTO GOP HOUSE PRIMARIES. Politico (9/14, Tamborrino, 3.6M) reported, "There is 'no indication' that the White House will intervene in House GOP primaries," National Republican Congressional Committee political director Joe Pileggi told Politico on Thursday. While President Trump "has gone after GOP Senate members – namely Republican Sen. Jeff Flake, who" faces reelection next year, Pileggi "said the idea of Trump intervening in the House field was 'hypothetical,' adding that 'there is no indication that is happening." Pileggi also told Politico, "We have a great relationship with the White House."

PROGRESSIVE GROUPS SPENDING \$2M ON DIGITAL ADS AIMED AT BOOSTING NORTHAM. Politico (9/14, Robillard, 3.6M) reported, "A slew of liberal groups are teaming up for a \$2 million digital ad buy aiming to drive Virginia voters to the polls in November and" support Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam (D) in his bid to succeed term-limited Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D). Politico said, "Planned Parenthood Votes and Planned Parenthood Virginia PAC, the Tom Steyerbacked Next Gen America, Priorities USA and the Virginia League of Conservation Voters PAC are all contributing hundreds of thousands of dollars to the effort, which will begin this week and run until Election Day. The ads will aim to reach and turn out more than 1.2 million voters." Northam is battling ex-RNC chief Ed Gillespie (R) in this fall's general election.

Gun-Control Group Providing Northam With \$700K In Financial Support. Meanwhile, the Washington Post (9/14, Nirappil, 10.38M) reports that Everytown for Gun Safety Action Fund, "the campaign arm of one of the nation's biggest gun control groups, announced Thursday that it would spend at least \$1 million in Virginia as part of an 'initial investment' to elect Democrats in November. The fund is donating \$450,000 directly to...Northam...and spending \$250,000 on mailers on his behalf. It's also giving \$300,000 to Attorney General Mark Herring for his reelection bid, as he faces attack advertising from the National Rifle Association."

POLL: 50% OF VOTERS SAY MENENDEZ DOESN'T DESERVE REELECTION IN 2018.

Politico (9/14, Tat, 3.6M) reported that in a Quinnipiac University poll 1,121 New Jersey voters, taken Sept. 7-12, 50% of those surveyed said that Sen. Bob Menendez (D-NJ) – in the midst of a federal corruption trial – "does not deserve to be reelected next year," while 20% "said he should be re-elected"; 30% "were undecided." According to the poll, Menendez's job-approval rating stands at 31%, "his lowest rating since February 2008, when he had 30 percent approval."

68% Of Voters Don't Want Christie To Choose Menendez Successor. The Washington Post (9/14, Weigel, 10.38M) reports that in the survey, "when asked what should happen 'if Senator Menendez is forced to leave the Senate' as a result of his corruption trial," 68% said Menendez "should be replaced not by someone picked by Gov. Chris Christie (R) but by whomever is elected to replace Christie in November." Ex-Goldman Sachs executive Phil Murphy (D) is heavily favored to win this fall's race to succeed Christie. The Post adds, "Were Menendez to leave before Jan. 16, Christie would choose his replacement." The Hill (9/14, Greenwood, 1.68M) reported that just 3% of those surveyed think "Christie should appoint himself to fill Menendez's



seat, in the event that the senior New Jersey senator resigns or is forced out following his corruption trial."

At Menendez Trial, Prosecutors Focus On Timing Of Menendez Flight Reimbursements. Meanwhile, in coverage of Thursday's developments in the trial of Menendez and his longtime friend and donor, Florida eye doctor Salomon Melgen, Politico (9/14, Friedman, 3.6M) said that Menendez "did not reimburse" Melgen "for two round-trip flights on his private jet until a reporter started asking questions, according to testimony." Politico added, "The prosecution introduced a November 1, 2012 email from Washington Post reporter Paul Kane, asking [a Menendez aide] about a trip to the Dominican Republican that had surfaced in news reports just days before the senator was to stand for re-election." Politico added that testimony yesterday indicated that while the trips in question took place in 2010, Menendez didn't reimburse Melgen for the flights until 2013.

The New York Post (9/14, Whitehouse, 4.31M) reports that prosecutors showed the "jury a \$58,500 check Menendez paid [Melgen] for two round-trip flights he took in 2010 on the wealthy eye doctor's private jet. Prosecutors made a point, however, of noting that the check was written in Jan. 2013 – following a 2012 inquiry from a Washington Post reporter about those very same flights. ... A separate document showed that Menendez was also only billed for the 2010 flights by Melgen's son-in-law after newspaper's Nov. 2012 inquiry."

GOP-Aligned Group's New Website Tracking Menendez's Missed Senate Votes During Trial. The New York Post (9/14, Schultz, 4.31M) reports that the GOP-aligned group America Rising PAC has "created a new site dedicated to tracking just how many votes Menendez is missing in Washington because of his ongoing federal trial in Newark. As of Thursday afternoon, the site – www.howmanyvoteshasmenendezmissed.com – has tracked eight missed votes. 'This is just the first week and there's no telling how long this trial is going to go,' said Alex Smith, executive director of America Rising PAC. 'There are important legislative priorities that are coming up this fall and I think the Garden State is definitely going to be missing out on one of its votes.'"

HEAD OF AFP'S TENNESSEE CHAPTER ANNOUNCES RUN FOR CORKER'S SEAT. The AP (9/14, Schelzig) reports that "conservative activist" Andy Ogles (R) on Thursday announced that he will run for Senate next year. Sen. Bob Corker (R-TN), who faces reelection in 2018, "has so far refused to divulge whether he will seek a third term. Ogles heads the Tennessee chapter of Americans for Prosperity, a group funded by billionaire brothers Charles and David Koch."

MICHIGAN'S EL-SAYED BIDDING TO BECOME NATION'S FIRST MUSLIM GOVERNOR. In an online report headlined "Can This Doctor Become The 1st Muslim Governor In US History," ABC News (9/14, Verhovek, 2.83M) profiled ex-Detroit Health Department chief Abdul El-Sayed (D), who is mounting a 2018 bid to succeed term-limited Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder (R). ABC News said that the "32-year-old physician, Rhodes Scholar...became youngest person to lead a major American city's health department when, at the age of 30, he was brought in to rebuild Detroit's Health Department after the city went bankrupt." ABC News added that if victorious, El-Sayed, "the son of Egyptian immigrants," would become "America's first Muslim governor." Most political observers view ex-state Sen. Gretchen Whitmer (D) as the frontrunner in the crowded Democratic primary.

STATE DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHIEF SAYS REP. CASTRO "CONSIDERING" RUN AGAINST ABBOTT. The <u>Dallas Morning News</u> (9/14, Jeffers, Writer, 984K) reports, "In need of someone to lead the top of the 2018 ticket, Democrats are trying to convince" Rep. Joaquín Castro (D) to challenge Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R) in next year's election. Speaking with the Morning News, state Democratic Party chief Gilberto Hinojosa said of Castro, "He and others are considering it. It's a very big decision for him. It would require him to leave his safe seat in the US House, where he's a rising star." The <u>Austin (TX) American Statesman</u> (9/14, Tilove, Subscription Publication, 431K) reports that in an interview, Hinojosa said of a Castro run for governor, "He's never ruled it



out." The American-Statesman adds that asked last month about a possible gubernatorial bid, Castro said. "Well I have a job right now and my plan is to run for re-election."

"THE UPSHOT" ANALYSIS: FOR DEMOCRATS TO BENEFIT, MILLENNIALS NEED TO TURN OUT AT HIGHER RATES. Writing in "The Upshot" on the website of the New York Times (9/14, Morris, Subscription Publication, 13.56M), G. Elliott Morris, a student at the University of Texas, who covers House elections for Decision Desk HQ, said, "Young Americans have been moving left and leaving the G.O.P. in recent years, but a successful Democratic coalition built on the backs of liberal youth is far from a sure thing," due to millennials' history of turning out in lower numbers than older voters. Morris added, "The 2020 election is supposed to be the first presidential race in which millennials outnumber baby boomers," but last year's "turnout numbers...offer a stark reminder: Boomers, who lean Republican, turned out to vote at a rate 23 percentage points higher than that of millennials. ... Unless that changes, boomers, though they may be outnumbered by millennials, may continue to decide their future."

UNDER TRUMP, ACLU AND SPLC SEE BIG INCREASE IN WORKPLACE DONATIONS. The Washington Post (9/14, McGregor, 10.38M) reports that since President Trump's election, the American Civil Liberties Union and the Southern Poverty Law Center have seen a "major" increase in workplace donations, according to Benevity – a company that "says it helps about 250 of Fortune 1000 companies manage their employee giving and corporate matching gift programs." According to Benevity's ranking, the ACLU "went from sixth place in 2016 to the top spot for the first time" this year, and the SPLC went from 17th in 2016 to ninth now. Benevity CEO Bryan de Lottinville "said the shift reflects more event-driven donations tied to political news over the past year."

JOHNSON, MCCASKILL CRITICIZE WASTE, FRAUD IN LOW-INCOME PHONE PROGRAM. Reuters (9/14, Shepardson) reports that Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) said Thursday that Congress should consider ending the decades-old federal subsidy for telephones and Internet access for low-income Americans – a \$1.5 billion program called "Lifeline" – following a recent Government Accountability Office audit that "found significant fraud in the program." In addition to fraud, investigators "could not confirm whether more than 1.2 million individuals sampled actually qualified" and "could not confirm how many of the 12.3 million participants enrolled received phones." Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO) also said "the combination of ineffective oversight and the greed of some private carriers has led to hundreds of millions in wasted taxpayer dollars."

GOOGLE HIT WITH GENDER DISCRIMINATION LAWSUIT. The <u>CBS Evening News</u> (9/14, story 12, 0:15, Mason, 11.17M) reported that "three women who used to work for Google sued the company today for discrimination," claiming that Google "pays women less than men for similar work and assigns female workers jobs less likely to lead to promotions."

NBC Nightly News (9/14, story 6, 1:45, Holt, 16.61M) reported that the lawsuit accuses Google "of paying women less than their male counterparts and also denying them promotions." NBC (Kent) added that three former employees, Kelly Ellis, Holly Pease and Kelli Wisuri, "say Google's failure to pay female employees the same for substantially similar work has been and is willful." In an email to NBC News, Google "denied the claim, saying, we disagree with the central allegations. We have extensive systems in place to ensure that we pay fairly. If we ever see individual discrepancies or problems, we work to fix them." NBC added that "Google's workforce is made up of 69 percent men and 31 percent women," and that "earlier this year, the Labor Department sued Google, also alleging compensation data revealed systemic compensation disparities against women across the workforce." Google "has also denied those allegations."

FTC INVESTIGATING EQUIFAX BREACH. ABC World News Tonight (9/14, story 13, 0:25, Muir, 14.63M) reported the Federal Trade Commission is now investigating the Equifax data breach. Additionally, the Apache Software Foundation "now says that Equifax neglected to address" the breach "for two months after learning about" a software vulnerability.



The <u>CBS Evening News</u> (9/14, story 10, 2:10, Mason, 11.17M) reported the ASF "says hackers exploited what it called Equifax's failure to install the security updates" to a software vulnerability on a web server "in a timely manner." ASF executive Michael Landoway called the update "urgent," adding, "The fact that there was an unpatched server for a matter of months, just opened the door to the hackers." Landoway said among experts, the bigger question is whether the consumer data was protected through encryption. He said, "If it was unencrypted, there's really nothing that can be done from this point on. Now the hackers are buying and selling everything there is to know about our identity on the dark web."

NBC Nightly News (9/14, story 7, 2:10, Holt, 16.61M) reported MasterCard and Visa "are notifying banks that 200,000 of their customer credit card numbers were among those lost."

OBAMA FOUNDATION HOLDS OUTREACH MEETING. The <u>Chicago Sun-Times</u> (9/14, Hinton, 742K) reports that the Obama Foundation held a public outreach meeting Thursday in Chicago that drew supporters and opponents of its project to create a presidential center in the city's Jackson Park. After hearing from a team of top foundation members and "a skyped-in Obama," the audience asked questions about how the center would benefit the community through jobs and training, while protecting affordable housing.

ONE DEAD, SEVEN INJURED IN FT. BRAGG TRAINING ACCIDENT. ABC World News Tonight (9/14, story 7, 0:25, Muir, 14.63M) reported that eight military personnel were injured Thursday during a demolitions training accident in Ft. Bragg in North Carolina. The training involved members of US Army Special Operations Forces. All eight personnel were taken to hospitals, but one "did not survive."

The NBC Nightly News (9/14, story 9, 1:30, Holt, 16.61M) reported the military is investigating the accidental explosion at Ft. Bragg, in addition to the accident on Wednesday at Camp Pendleton in San Diego that left 15 injured – with eight "seriously injured" – after an amphibious assault vehicle caught fire. Sen. John McCain was shown saying, "We now have many more accidents due to the lack of readiness and training and maintenance than we do in combat. We are asking them to do too much with too little. The result is an overworked strained force with aging equipment and not enough of it."

WASHINGTON STATE SCHOOL SHOOTER POSTED VIDEO OF HIMSELF ACTING OUT SHOOTINGS. The CBS Evening News (9/14, story 9, 2:15, Mason, 11.17M) reported that the student accused of shooting fellow classmates at a high school south of Spokane, Washington "had previously posted online videos of himself acting out shootings." A YouTube video posted in June showed the suspected shooter, Caleb Sharpe, "role playing in a first-person shooting game with toy guns." Additionally, a newly released affidavit "says Caleb told detectives he came to school yesterday to teach everyone a lesson about what happens when you bully others." The affidavit also says friends of Sharpe said he had made "improvised explosive devices out of various chemicals and white gas" in the past. The shooting left one dead and three injured.

Gun Safety Advocate: Gun Laws Should Prevent Suicide-Prone From Getting Firearms. In a Washington Post (9/14, 10.38M) op-ed, "gun safety advocate" Nancy Taylor writes that gun laws need to change to prevent those at risk for suicide from acquiring them. Observing that about "nine out of 10 suicide attempts with a gun are lethal," she recounts the story of her husband, who insisted on purchasing a firearm for home defense but eventually used the gun to commit suicide.

WEINER'S ATTORNEYS QUESTION CREDIBILITY, MOTIVATION OF SEXTING VICTIM. The New York Times (9/14, Weiser, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports attorneys for former Rep. Anthony Weiner, who "faces sentencing in a sexting case that involved a 15-year-old girl, wrote to the judge this week seeking probation for their client." The attorneys "made it clear that he had no excuse for his conduct," but "they also raised questions about the credibility and motivation of the teenage victim," arguing that "she not only had a profit motive for making contact



with Mr. Weiner and exchanging lewd texts and images with him, but that she also said she had sought to influence the presidential election." The attorneys "made it clear that such information could have an impact on the judge's assessment of the nature and circumstances of Mr. Weiner's crime, and of course on the ultimate sentence."

COLUMNISTS TAKE ISSUE WITH DEMOCRATS' QUESTIONING OF BARRETT. A pair of columns take issue with the questioning of judicial nominee and Notre Dame Law School professor Amy Coney Barrett by Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee. Michael Gerson writes in the Washington Post (9/14, Gerson, 10.38M) that in questioning Barrett, some Democrats on the committee "displayed a confusion of the intellect so profound, a disregard for constitutional values so reckless, that it amounts to anti-religious bigotry." Gerson argues that "liberal thinking...seeks to declare secular ideas the only valid basis for public engagement." In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (9/13, Subscription Publication, 6.45M), C.C. Pecknold, an associate professor of theology at the Catholic University of America, also criticizes the Democrats' line of questioning and argues that it was in pursuit of a politically progressive civil religion to which they expect other religions to adhere.

WPOST: KOBACH IS A FRAUD, NOT NEW HAMPSHIRE VOTERS. In an editorial, the Washington Post (9/14, 10.38M) writes that Kris Kobach's recent claims of New Hampshire voter fraud have "no evidence" to back them and that an examination of the data Kobach references as proof shows that "more than two-thirds of 5,900 day-of-election registrants who had out-of-state driver's licenses lived in college towns, indicating most were students voting perfectly legally." The Post argues that the "real fraud is Mr. Kobach himself...who will torture any truth, distort any data and fudge any fact in service to his long-standing goal of suppressing votes, specifically those likely to favor Democrats."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "A Hypocritical Battle Over Blue Slips." The New York Times (9/15, Board, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) editorializes that "now that Republicans control both the White House and Congress, top party officials, including Mitch McConnell, the Senate majority leader, are itching to eliminate the last remaining tool the minority party has to influence a president's picks for the federal courts — the so-called blue slip." The Times notes that "back in 2009, Mr. McConnell and the entire Republican Senate caucus — then in the minority — implored President Barack Obama to honor all blue slips." The Times argues that "the blue slip is no longer the answer."

WASHINGTON POST. "Trump Dares To Dream Of A Deal." The Washington Post (9/14, 10.38M) editorializes that it "doesn't often agree with...Trump, but we're on board with his observation that most Americans oppose deportation for 'dreamers," and believe he is "right to ratchet up the pressure on Congress to extend" DREAMers "the protections he is set to withdraw." Democrats "should reciprocate in good faith by providing new funding for border security."

"Kris Kobach Is The Real Fraud." In an editorial, the Washington Post (9/14, 10.38M) writes that Kris Kobach's recent claims of New Hampshire voter fraud have "no evidence" to back them and that an examination of the data Kobach references as proof shows that "more than two-thirds of 5,900 day-of-election registrants who had out-of-state driver's licenses lived in college towns, indicating most were students voting perfectly legally." The Post argues that the "real fraud is Mr. Kobach himself...who will torture any truth, distort any data and fudge any fact in service to his long-standing goal of suppressing votes, specifically those likely to favor Democrats."

"Israel's Strike In Syria Should Be A Wake Up Call For Trump." In an editorial, the Washington Post (9/14, 10.38M) writes Israel's September 7 airstrike on an Iran-linked Syrian military facility highlighted the difference between US and Israeli interests in Syria, in light of President Trump's statement the day of the strike that the US has "very little to do with Syria other



than killing ISIS." The Post argues that although the Administration still should preserve the Iranian nuclear deal, the US "should be taking its own steps to block the Iranian 'entrenchment' in Syria" about which Benjamin Netanyahu has spoken.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. "One Last ObamaCare Try." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (9/14, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) concedes that Graham-Cassidy is not an ideal solution to the country's healthcare problems, but concludes it does signify progress toward undoing the ACA. Moreover, the Journal warns Republicans that if they miss this opportunity to repeal Obamacare, their voters will remember in 2018.

"The Return To Regular Order." A Wall Street Journal (9/14, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) editorial praises the House Republicans for passing all 12 individual spending bills for the first time since 2004 and argues that while the bills will face Democratic filibusters in the Senate, perhaps the House's responsible action will encourage the Senate to act.

"Trump's Dreamer Dealing." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (9/14, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) urges President Trump to dismiss the criticism from some on the right, and predicts those same critics will be soon in his corner. To the Journal, an agreement on DACA would be a major accomplishment for the President.

The Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

GOP Pushes Back On "Dreamers" Deal Sought By Trump, Democrats Japan's SoftBank Wants Big Chunk Of Uber, But At Steep Discount North Korea Fires Second Missile Over Japan In A Month Shortage Of Insurance Adjusters Could Stall Florida's Recovery

New York Times:

Trump's Support For Law To Protect "Dreamers" Lifts Its Chances
Immigration's Sudden Re-Emergence Scrambles Republican Agenda
Trump Humiliated Jeff Sessions After Mueller Appointment
Trump Signals He Will Choose Approach On Iran That Preserves Nuclear Deal
In Angela Merkel, German Women Find Symbol, But Not Savior
Review: Reimagining "Peter Pan" For The Lipitor Demographic

Washington Post:

"Dreamer" Deal Gains Cautious Support On Hill
Antifa: Fascism Fighters Or Lawless Thrill-Seekers?
Trump Tests Supporters With Immigration Moves
In Flood-Weary Houston, A Call To Retreat
N. Korea Fires 2nd Missile Over Japan In Under 3 Weeks

Financial Times:

Merkel's Duel With Schulz Masks A Growing Challenge
Hawkish BoE Spurs Markets To Revise Rate Expectations
Le Maire Calls For Eurozone To Seize Moment And See Off Populists
Trump Under Fire Over "Dreamers" Deal With Democrats

Washington Times:

Obamacare Costs Projected To Rise Faster Than Inflation In Next Decade As Enrollment Declines

<u>Dreamer Citizenship Rights Could Swell Immigrant Number To 1.5 Million</u>
<u>Susan Rice Reveals Why She "Unmasked" Trump Campaign Staffers</u>
<u>Trump Prods State Department To Stop Delaying Release Of Clinton Emails</u>



Kosovo's Deep Love And Gratitude For America On Prominent Display Throughout Country Enrollments, Budgets Fall Short At Universities Known For "Social Justice Warfare"

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: North Korea-Missile Test; Hurricane Irma-Nursing Home Deaths; Hurricane Irma-Caribbean; White House-DACA Deal; Hurricane Jose Tracking; Washington State-School Shooting; Ft. Bragg Training Accident; NYPD-Police Shooting Bodycam; Treasury Secretary-Gov Plane Use; Maryland-School Teacher Murdered; San Diego-Hepatitis Outbreak; Young Driver-Guardrail Crash; Equifax-Cyber Security Breach; Plane Overbooking-Compensated Woman.

CBS: White House-DACA Deal; White House-Democrats Relations; Hurricane Irma-Trump Visit; North Korea-Missile Test; Trump-Charlottesville Comment; Hurricane Irma-Nursing Home Deaths; Hurricane Irma-Relief Efforts; NYPD-Police Shooting Bodycam; Washington State-School Shooting; Equifax-Cyber Security Breach; Treasury Secretary-Gov Plane Use; Google-Gender Discrimination Lawsuit; Crayola-New Crayon Name; Selena Gomez-Kidney Transplant.

NBC: North Korea-Missile Test; Hurricane Irma-Nursing Home Deaths; White House-DACA Deal; White House-Campaign Promises; Hurricane Irma-Caribbean; Google-Gender Discrimination Lawsuit; Equifax-Cyber Security Breach; Selena Gomez-Kidney Transplant; Ft. Bragg Training Accident; Cartoonist Parent.

Network TV At A Glance:

Hurricane Irma – 14 minutes, 25 seconds White House-DACA Deal – 10 minutes, 35 seconds Equifax-Cyber Security Breach – 4 minutes, 45 seconds North Korea-Missile Test – 3 minutes

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: North Korea-Missile Test; White House-DACA Deal; Ft. Bragg Training Accident; Wisconsin-Foxxcon Facility; NBA News.

CBS: North Korea-Missile Test; White House-DACA Deal; Washington State-School Shooting; Dallas-Confederate Statue Removal.

FOX: North Korea-Missile Test; UC Berkeley-Conservative Speech; White House-DACA Deal; NBA News

NPR: North Korea-Missile Test; Hurricane Irma-Nursing Home Deaths; Washington State-School Shooting; Wall Street News.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Almost every weekend since [Donald Trump] was sworn in, he has personally flown to Florida to make sure there were no hurricanes there. Sometimes he even carries a golf club to fend them off."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Hillary Clinton is promoting her new book. She told Anderson Cooper that a lot of people come up to her now to apologize for not voting. And when they do that, she says she doesn't forgive them. I guess she used all her forgiveness up on her husband."

Jimmy Kimmel: "White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders was asked about Clinton's book. She said she thought it was sad, which is true. I mean, I don't want to spoil it for anyone who's planning to read it, but at the end of the book, Donald Trump becomes President."

James Corden: "So big news out of the White House last night, Democratic leaders Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi had dinner with Donald Trump, and they said that they struck a deal regarding immigration and border security that might not even include the wall Trump keeps promising. At the dinner, Pelosi and Schumer had the chicken while Trump ate his words."



James Corden: "Trump supporters were really angry today that it looks like he was making deals with the Democrats and abandoning the border wall. They said that Trump never betrays anyone, aside from Sean Spicer, Anthony Scaramucci, Reince Priebus, Steve Bannon, his two ex-wives, and that one daughter he never talks about."

James Corden: "Trump did try to reassure his supporters by tweeting this. He said the wall, which is already under construction in the form of new renovation of old and existing fences, will continue to be built. Now I'm sorry, you cannot fix an existing wall and then say that you built a wall. That is not how it works. That is like taking \$14 million from your father and saying you are a self-made businessman."

Trevor Noah: "One deal, now he's Mr. Bipartisan? Okay, you can't call someone a philanthropist because they tossed a quarter at a homeless person. Doesn't work that way."

Trevor Noah: "Let's talk for a minute about the Twitter. It's a wonderful invention, but we have learned that if you ever tweet something that offends too many people, you could get fired from your job, or you could become President."

Jimmy Fallon: "Trump went on Twitter to criticize Hillary's new book. So she responded by saying she'd send him a copy of her children's book instead. Trump was like, 'Got anything shorter?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Meanwhile, Ivanka Trump said that she doesn't speak out against her dad publicly because when you're part of a team, you're part of a team. I think what she meant to say was, 'When you're part of a will, you're part of a will."

Seth Meyers: "In an interview with CNN yesterday, Hillary Clinton said that the electoral college needs to be eliminated. 'Same with regular college,' said Betsy DeVos."

Seth Meyers: "So the big, beautiful wall that would be paid for by Mexico and begins construction on day one is now an old existing fence that will be paid for later because we all remember those famous chants from Trump rallies. 'What do we want?' 'To renovate old and existing fences.' 'And when do we want it?' 'A little bit later than now!'"

Seth Meyers: "That's right. Donald Trump is a party of one. Although, usually you hear that phrase associated with Eric Trump. 'Eric, party of one.'"

Conan O'Brien: "President Trump now says he wants the wealthy to pay more taxes and he wants undocumented minors to be allowed to stay in the country. That's what he said. Then this morning, Trump accused himself of being born in Kenya."

Conan O'Brien: "Trump supporters are angry, outraged over President's recent reversals on immigration. Trump supporters are very upset. This is the first time they've ever been this angry at a white male."

Conan O'Brien: "President Trump was very busy all night last night tweeting about Hillary Clinton. As a result, Melania Trump spent all this morning thanking Hillary Clinton."

Conan O'Brien: "Facebook is under fire because during last year's election, Facebook sold lots of ad space to Russia. Facebook said the problem has been fixed. Now they're selling that ad space to a really nice lady named ISIS."

Conan O'Brien: "The US government has announced a deal to sell 18 fighter jets to Canada. Those jets will help Canada protect itself from its most hated enemy, bad manners."



This copy of the HHS News Briefing was sent to you because you are registered for email notification on our <u>website</u>. If you would like to cancel email delivery click <u>here</u>.

Copyright 2017 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's terms of use. Services including embedded Tweets are also subject to Twitter for Website's information and privacy policies. The HHS News Briefing is published five days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at BulletinIntelligence.com, or called at (703) 483-6100.





HHS News Briefing

PRODUCED BY BULLETIN INTELLIGENCE WWW.BULLETININTELLIGENCE.COM/HHS

TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2017 7:30 AM EDT

TODAY'S EDITION

Leading the News
CBO Predicts Higher Premiums For ACA Plans, Lower Enrollment Due To Trump Policies4 HHS Cuts Funding For Some Navigators By As Much As 85%
The Secretary in the News HHS Secretary Price Announces Funding For
Opioid, Mental Health Services In Visit To New
Hampshire4 Trump Administration Reportedly Considering Using
Tax Reform To Defund ACA5
Advocates Urge HHS To Reject Massachusetts' Waiver Request To Cut MassHealth
Transportation Benefits5
Opinion: MACRA Provides An Opportunity To Transform Care Through Alternative Payment
Models5
HHS in the News
Medicare To Issue New Cards In Anti-Fraud Effort6 Gottlieb: FDA Is Focused On Boosting Competition
To Address Drug Prices6
FDA Approves Biosimilar Version Of Bevacizumab6
FDA Approves Copanlisib To Treat Follicular Lymphoma6
Paulsen: FDA Needs To Be Modernized6
FDA Approves App To Treat Substance Abuse6 New Product Claims It May Reduce Peanut
Allergies In Infants7
House \$1.2 Trillion Spending Bill Adds \$9 Billion In NIH Funding7
Dogs Participating In Clinical Trials Of Immuno-
Oncology Treatments7 Immunotherapy Trials Increased In Popularity Since
"False Dawn" Of IL-27
Current Anti-Cancer Technology Evolving To Better Treat Patients7
Problem Drinking Rising Fast Among Older
Americans, NIAAA Researchers Find8 CDC Director Warns Of Post-Hurricane Dangers8
CDC Director Warris Of Post-numicane Dangers8

Reduction In HHS, CMS Health Insurance Marketing Budgets Will Impact North Texas	
Healthcare Groups	R
AHRQ, PCORI To Award Grants For Learning	_
Health System Training And Research	R
	_
Health Reform	
Trump Criticizes Sanders' Single-Payer Proposal,	
Calls It "A Curse On The US."	8
Trump Says McCain's Vote Against The Senate's	
ACA Repeal Bill Led To Sanders' Single-Payer	
Proposal	9
Graham Urges Trump To Focus On ACA Repeal	
Ahead Of Reconciliation Deadline	9
Sen. Barrasso Wants CBO to Score Sanders'	
"Medicare For All" Proposal	9
Growing Support For Single-Payer Among Dems	
Shows Sanders' Influence In The Party	9
Sanders Reportedly Fails To Explain How His	
Single-Payer Plan Will Be Funded	9
Analysis: Americans Are "Ambivalent" About Single-	
Payer, Not "Clamoring" For It As Sanders	_
Contends	9
Number Of Uninsured Veterans Would Increase If	_
ACA Were Repealed, Study Indicates10	J
Healthcare Debate Becomes Part Of Baldwin's Bid	_
For Re-Election Next Year10	J
Cuts To Outreach Efforts May Impact Low-Income	_
Iowans Who Purchase ACA Plans10	J
ACA Had Significant Impact On Number Of Insured,	_
Census Data Indicate10	J
Single-Payer Plan Similar To Sanders'	_
"FailedReally Badly" In Colorado10	J
Senate HELP Committee Hopes To Complete ACA	_
Stabilization Measure By Early Next Week10	J
Some Dems Willing To Consider Alternatives To	
ACA's Individual Mandate1	1
Bipartisan Group Of Senators Working On ACA	
Stabilization Bill Still At Odds1	1
Op-Ed Says Insurers May Be Willing To	,
Compromise With Sanders On Single-Payer1	1

Sponsors Of Latest ACA Repeal Bill Seek To Garner Support Among Colleagues
Help Reverse, The Opioid Epidemic
Healthcare Fraud Opinion: Medicaid Agencies Not Doing Enough To Stop Fraud14
Authorities Continue Investigation Of South Florida Nursing Home Where Eight Died
Seventy Healthcare Organizations Press Congress On DACA

Nutrition & Obesity
Cardiologist Discusses Weight Gain, Metabolic Changes Tied To Artificial Sweeteners16
Medicare
Health Data Exchange Could Save Medicare \$3.12 Billion Annually, Study Says17
Medicaid & CHIP
Former Sen. Frist: Children's Health Insurance
Program Demands Quick, Bipartisan Passage.17 Opinion: CHIP Reauthorization Remains Tenuous
As Deadline Approaches
Expansion17 Idaho Officials Offer Plan To Address Medicaid
Gap, Lower Premiums17 Study Finds ACA Medicaid Expansion Tied To Earlier Cancer Care For The Poor17
Columnist Asks Whether Nevadans Would Pay Higher Taxes For Medicaid Expansion17
Health & Medical News New Therapies Indicate Cancer Is Becoming More Survivable18
Variety Of New Cancer Treatments Are Under Development
Researchers Make Progress In Treating Pediatric Cancer Thanks To Donated Brain Of Former
College Football Coach's Grandson18
Philadelphia Institutions Participating In NIH-Funded "Smart" Water Bottle Study To Reduce Kidney
Stones
Pennsylvania Health Department Issues Report On Pittsburgh Hospital's Breach Of Privacy Of Unconscious Patient18
Man Suffers Erectile Dysfunction After Being
Scratched By Cat18
March For Science Organizers Plot Long-Term Strategy19
Roswell Park Researchers Explore Beta Blocker Use For Cancer Therapies19
Report Finds Shortcomings In Biomedical Research19
Happy Music May Stimulate Creativity, Study Suggests19
In Long-Term Relationships, Women Are More Likely Than Men To Lose Interest In Sex, Study Suggests19
Physician Says "Nudges" Can Help Seriously III Patients Make Hard End-Of-Life Decisions19
House Votes To Prohibit Funding Of District Of
Columbia Reproductive Health Law19 Ohio House Speaker Says Flu Vaccine Bill Moved
Too Quickly, Needs Work20



By Catholic-Affiliated Systems, Study
Suggests20
Enzalutamide Shows Promising Results For
Patients With Early Stage Prostate Cancer In
Clinical Trial20
Moderna, AstraZeneca's Experimental Heart Drug
Shows Promising Results In Early Trial20
Romosozumab Reduces Risk Of Bone Fractures In
Women With Osteoporosis, Study Indicates20
Investors Funding Companies Developing
Technologies To Improve Medication
Adherence20
Drugs Approved Under Expedited Review Have
Higher Rate Of Changes To Safety Warnings,
Study Finds20
Federal Investigation Results In New Confession In
International Counterfeit Pet Pharmaceutical
Scam
Commentary Supports Philip Morris' Modified Risk
Tobacco Product Application For IQOS
Technology21
Lilly, Incyte's Baricitinib Meets Phase 2 Endpoints21
Brief, Intense Exercise May Activate Molecular
Pathways In The Body That Boost Chemicals
That Suppress Growth Of Breast Cancer Cells,
Research In Mice Suggests21
San Diego Bleaching Streets To Combat Hepatitis A
Outbreak21
Suffolk County Confirms First Two Human West
Suffolk County Confirms First Two Human West Nile Virus Cases Of Year21
Suffolk County Confirms First Two Human West Nile Virus Cases Of Year21 Yolo County Officials Confirm Two "Severe" Cases
Suffolk County Confirms First Two Human West Nile Virus Cases Of Year21 Yolo County Officials Confirm Two "Severe" Cases
Suffolk County Confirms First Two Human West Nile Virus Cases Of Year21 Yolo County Officials Confirm Two "Severe" Cases Of West Nile Virus21
Suffolk County Confirms First Two Human West Nile Virus Cases Of Year
Suffolk County Confirms First Two Human West Nile Virus Cases Of Year
Suffolk County Confirms First Two Human West Nile Virus Cases Of Year
Suffolk County Confirms First Two Human West Nile Virus Cases Of Year
Suffolk County Confirms First Two Human West Nile Virus Cases Of Year
Suffolk County Confirms First Two Human West Nile Virus Cases Of Year
Suffolk County Confirms First Two Human West Nile Virus Cases Of Year
Suffolk County Confirms First Two Human West Nile Virus Cases Of Year
Suffolk County Confirms First Two Human West Nile Virus Cases Of Year
Suffolk County Confirms First Two Human West Nile Virus Cases Of Year
Suffolk County Confirms First Two Human West Nile Virus Cases Of Year
Suffolk County Confirms First Two Human West Nile Virus Cases Of Year
Suffolk County Confirms First Two Human West Nile Virus Cases Of Year
Suffolk County Confirms First Two Human West Nile Virus Cases Of Year
Suffolk County Confirms First Two Human West Nile Virus Cases Of Year
Suffolk County Confirms First Two Human West Nile Virus Cases Of Year
Suffolk County Confirms First Two Human West Nile Virus Cases Of Year
Suffolk County Confirms First Two Human West Nile Virus Cases Of Year
Suffolk County Confirms First Two Human West Nile Virus Cases Of Year
Suffolk County Confirms First Two Human West Nile Virus Cases Of Year
Suffolk County Confirms First Two Human West Nile Virus Cases Of Year

Lung Cancer Cases In Northern Ireland "Increase
By A Third," Says Report23
China Asserts It Has Reformed Controversial Organ
Transplant System Through Voluntary Online
Registry23
Malaysia Becomes First Country To Issue A
License To Make Generic Versions Of
Sofosbuvir23
National News
As Right Lashes Out, Trump Says DACA Deal
Would Include "Massive Border Controls."23
Trump Meets With Irma Survivors, Praises Federal
And State Response26
SBA Providing Low-Interest Disaster Loans To Irma
Victims28
Irma's Agricultural Cost Estimated In The Billions28
Florida Facing Shortage Of Insurance Adjusters28
FPL Promises To Have Power On By Sunday On
Florida's East Coast28
Focus In Florida Keys Turns To Relief28
Mobile Home Community Takes "Horrific Hit."28
Raw Sewage Backing Up On Lawns In Lee County,
Florida
VA Opens Beds To Nursing Home Residents
Affected By Irma29
Irma's Death Toll Rises To 2629
Relief Supplies Flowing Into St. Maarten29
Models Indicate Tropical Storm Jose Is Unlikely To
Come Ashore29
Officials Believe Hurricane Harvey Death Toll Is "At
Least 82."29
Harris County Flood District Seeking Funds For
Harvey-Related Home Buyouts29
Trump Reiterates That There Were "Bad Dudes" On
Both Sides In Charlottesville30
Trump To Hold Conference With Jewish Leaders31
NYTimes A1: Trump "Berated" Sessions After
Appointment Of Mueller31
USA Today Analysis: Congressional Panels In
Russia Probe "Tripping Over One Another."31
Trump Rips Rice's Unmasking Of Transition
Officials As "Just The Tip Of The Iceberg."33
White House Pressing State To Speed Up Release
Of Clinton Emails33
In Leaked Memo, McMaster Tells Agencies To
Warn Staff Against Leaking Information34
Mnuchin Says Request To Use Government Jet
Was Based On Need For Secure
Communications34
Senate Panel Approves Four Trump Judicial
Nominees35
Administration May Replace Obama Climate Rule
Rather Than Repeal It35
Trump To Spend Majority Of Week In NYC At
Trainip to opena majority of week in NTO At
Palace Hotel35

Dow Sets Record As S&P And Nasdaq Slide35
Rosenstein Signals Upcoming Changes On
Corporate-Crime Prosecution Policy35
Pompeo Cancels Harvard Speech After Chelsea
Manning Named Fellow36
McConnell-Backed Group's Poll Shows Moore
Leading Strange 41%-40%36
NRCC Official Says There's "No Indication" Trump
Will Wade Into GOP House Primaries37
Progressive Groups Spending \$2M On Digital Ads
Aimed At Boosting Northam37
Poll: 50% Of Voters Say Menendez Doesn't
Deserve Reelection In 201837
Head Of AFP's Tennessee Chapter Announces
Run For Corker's Seat38
Michigan's El-Sayed Bidding To Become Nation's
First Muslim Governor38
State Democratic Party Chief Says Rep. Castro
"Considering" Run Against Abbott38
"The Upshot" Analysis: For Democrats To Benefit,
Millennials Need To Turn Out At Higher Rates.38
Under Trump, ACLU And SPLC See Big Increase In
Workplace Donations38

Johnson, McCaskill Criticize Waste, Fraud In Low-Income Phone Program
Accident39
Washington State School Shooter Posted Video Of Himself Acting Out Shootings39
Weiner's Attorneys Question Credibility, Motivation Of Sexting Victim40
Columnists Take Issue With Democrats' Questioning Of Barrett40 WPost: Kobach Is A Fraud, Not New Hampshire Voters40
Editorial Wrap-UpNew York Times.40Washington Post.40Wall Street Journal.40
The Big Picture Headlines From Today's Front Pages41
Last Laughs Late Night Political Humor42

LEADING THE NEWS

CBO Predicts Higher Premiums For ACA Plans, Lower Enrollment Due To

Trump Policies. The AP (9/14, Fram) reports that according to the Congressional Budget Office, average premiums for plans purchased through Affordable Care Act exchanges will increase by about 15 percent in 2018, mainly due to "marketplace nervousness over whether President Donald Trump will block federal subsidies to insurers." The article says Trump has "repeatedly threatened" to eliminate ACA subsidy payments to insurers as part of his effort to roll back the healthcare law. The CBO added that premiums will also rise because of the "growing numbers of people living in regions where only one insurer sells policies, therefore facing less competition."

The Hill (9/14, Hellmann, 1.68M) reports that the insurance industry has "pleaded for more certainty on key ObamaCare payments called cost-sharing reduction subsidies, which reimburse them for giving discounts to low-income patients." While the Trump Administration has been making the "payments on a month-to-month

basis...insurers want them funded on a long-term basis."

Reuters (9/14, Humer) reports the CBO is also predicting that enrollment in ACA plans for 2018 will be lower compared to previous years because of "the Trump administration's decision to pull back enrollment efforts." The article says the Administration has cut spending on advertising, shortened the open enrollment period by 50 percent, and reduced outreach. The piece adds that the CBO "now estimates that the average monthly enrollment on the exchanges will be about 11 million people, down about 4 million from last year's forecast."

The Washington Examiner (9/14, Leonard, 465K) reports that the higher premiums will also "cause 2 million more people than expected to become uninsured between this year and next," the CBO predicted. The increases are expected to impact "people who don't have medical coverage through a job or the government and do not receive subsidies under Obamacare to pay for coverage."

The <u>Washington Times</u> (9/14, Howell, 541K) reports that "premiums will rise an average of 5 percent a year over the next decade, much higher than the annual inflation rate," according to the CBO.



The <u>Hartford (CT) Courant</u> (9/14, Blair, 463K) reports that customers on Connecticut's health insurance exchange will pay premiums that are up to 31.7 percent higher, assuming President Trump ends the cost-sharing reductions.

Vox (9/14, Kliff, 1.54M) and Daily Intelligencer (NY) (9/14, Levitz, 519K) also cover the story.

HHS Funding For Some Cuts Navigators By As Much As 85%. The Washington Post (9/14, Eilperin, Goldstein, 10.38M) reports HHS "officials have informed grass-roots groups that assist with enrollment under the Affordable Care Act that their funding will be reduced by as much as 85 percent, a move that could upend outreach efforts across the country." The Post adds that "the groups, which fund organizations known as 'navigators,' had been braced for the cuts since the Trump administration announced two weeks ago that it would shrink overall program funding by 41 percent and slash the department's ACA advertising budget from \$100 million to \$10 million." Advocates for navigators warn that the "deep cuts would undermine" enrollment efforts for 2018, but HHS has cast doubt on the value of the navigator program, and last month, HHS spokeswoman Caitlin Oakley "issued a statement calling it 'ineffective' and saying that funding for this next enrollment period would be 'in proportion to their performance."

In a separate article, the Washington Post (9/14, Soffen, Uhrmacher, 10.38M) reports states in the Midwest and the South will see the largest cuts to the outreach programs. The website posts an interactive state-by-state map to show the cuts. The piece says the burden of the cuts "will likely fall more on states that lean Republican" because several "blue states run their own marketplaces and fund their own navigator program, so they won't be affected by these federal cuts."

The <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/15, King, 465K) reports that some navigators are facing budget cuts "of as much as 90 percent." The article added that some navigators questioned HHS' funding formula, and said that "they do a lot more than just sign up people for Obamacare, such as help consumers pick a plan and determine how to choose a doctor."

The <u>Columbus (OH) Dispatch</u> (9/14, Candisky, 456K) reports that one navigator in Ohio was "in an absolute state of shock" when it

learned that its funding would be cut by 71 percent.

The Hill (9/14, Roubein, 1.68M) also covers the story.

THE SECRETARY IN THE NEWS

Secretary Price Announces HHS Funding For Opioid, Mental Health Services In Visit To New Hampshire. New Hampshire Public Radio (9/14, McDermott) reports that Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price visited a health center in Somersworth, New Hampshire, to announce \$200 million in federal grants to community health centers that the article said will "increase access to mental health and opioid abuse services." Secretary Price said, "The president has talked recently about raising the level of the opioid crisis to an emergency, and we're working on that with his staff, literally as we speak, to bring greater clarity and focus to that, and to bring greater enthusiasm, if you will, on the part of elected officials in Washington." Nine New Hampshire health centers and the city of Manchester will receive approximately \$175,000 apiece under the grants.

Mississippi Providers Get \$3M Federal Grant To Address Opioids. The Jackson (MS) Clarion Ledger (9/14, Wolfe, 255K) reports that Health the US Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) granted over \$3 million targeted directly to 18 Mississippi health centers to address the opioid "super pandemic." HHS Secretary Tom Price said in a statement, "No corner of our country, from rural areas to urban centers, has escaped the scourge of the opioid crisis. ... These grants from HRSA go directly to local organizations, which are best situated to address substance abuse and mental health issues in their own communities." The article says health centers will use the funds to "expand and integrate mental health services and substance abuse services, in part by increasing personnel and training."

Minnesota Centers To Receive \$2.7 Million. The St. Paul (MN) Pioneer Press (9/14, Magan, 527K) reports that 16 health centers in Minnesota would receive \$2.7 million from the Health Resources and Services Administration "to combat the state's growing drug overdose crisis and improve residents' access to mental health services." Last week, state health officials

announced drug overdose deaths climbed 9.2 percent in 2016 to 637 – and nearly 60 percent of them were from opioids, including heroin, prescription painkillers, and other synthetic drugs. Nationwide, the \$200 million will be spread across 1,178 health centers.

Colorado Clinics To Receive \$2.9 Million. The Denver Post (9/14, Brown, 817K) reports that 17 health centers in Colorado will receive \$2.9 million and expect to use the funds to expand "medication-assisted treatment" – using the drug buprenorphine-naloxone which reduces cravings and prevents people from "getting high should they relapse."

West Virginia Health Centers To Receive \$3.7 Million. The AP (9/15) reports that West Virginia Sens. Joe Manchin (D) and Shelley Moore Capito (R) announced that 22 health centers and rural health organizations will receive \$3.7 million in federal funds for increased addiction and mental health services. The senators add that the funds will be used for "personnel, information technology and training."

Secretary Price To Visit Pennsylvania Friday After Giving \$5 Million. The Wilkes-Barre (PA) Times Leader (9/14, O'Boyle, 115K) reports that Secretary Price and Counselor to the President Kellvanne Conway will visit the Mirmont Treatment Center in the Philadelphia suburbs on Friday because, Price said, "it is state and local policymakers, advocates, first responders, law enforcement officers, treatment centers, and many more who have responded to help their communities in the areas of response and recovery in this time of great need." The visit comes after the HRSA announced Thursday that 32 Pennsylvania health centers will receive over \$5.3 million in grants to increase access to substance abuse and mental health services. The piece also discusses that Geisinger is set to open its second outpatient addiction clinic in Wilkes-Barre on September 18 and a third is scheduled to open in central Pennsylvania later this year.

Trump Administration Reportedly Considering Using Tax Reform To Defund ACA. The Daily Caller (9/14, Donachie, 521K) reports that the Trump Administration is mulling "the idea of using tax reform as a tool to gut crucial features of Obamacare, a move that would appeal to Trump's base but could leave the health insurance marketplace in shambles." The article says HHS

Secretary Tom Price and other Administration officials "met Sept. 7 in the Roosevelt Room at The White House to discuss their plans for tax reform, Axios reports." During the event, there was a discussion about "repealing Obamacare's medical device tax, the tax on health insurance plans and the individual mandate."

Advocates Urge HHS To Reject Massachusetts' Waiver Request To MassHealth **Transportation** Cut Benefits. The Springfield (MA) Republican (9/14, Schoenberg, 520K) reports that advocacy groups wrote a letter to US Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price urging him to deny a waiver request by Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker (R) to eliminate coverage for non-emergency medical transportation to nondisabled adults earning more than 100 percent of the federal poverty level. The letter was signed by 28 groups - representing people with addiction, kidney disease, autism, epilepsy and others - who say beneficiaries use the benefit to get to their behavioral appointments. dialysis health preventative treatments. and services. spokeswoman for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services said that the move will save \$5 million and that trips for substance abuse treatment will continue, as will transportation for those who are disabled.

Opinion: MACRA Provides An Opportunity To Transform Care Through Alternative Payment Models.

Deloitte & Touche principal Anne Phelps writes in Healthcare Subscription Modern (9/15,Publication, 238K) that alternative payment models (APMs) such as medical homes, accountable care organizations, and bundled payments are improving states' Medicaid programs, and could provide an opportunity to move towards APMs in Medicare, Medicaid, and commercial payers, as well. Phelps mentions that both HHS Secretary Tom Price and CMS Administrator Seema Verma "have emphasized state flexibility and encouraged governors to apply for Medicaid section 1115 demonstration waivers to improve their programs." Phelps concludes that the focus should be on MACRA implementation, "[t]hese opportunities together could provide the financial incentive to reform and improve care delivery."

HHS IN THE NEWS

Medicare To Issue New Cards In Anti-Fraud Effort. The AP (9/14, Neergaard) reports that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will begin mailing Medicare beneficiaries new cards in April that do not include social security numbers as part of an effort to fight identity theft. Seema Verma explained that "criminals are increasingly targeting people age 65 and older for medical identity theft." Congress has set an April 2019 deadline for all beneficiaries to have received the new design – which was revealed Thursday.

NPR (9/14, Kodjak, 2.4M) reports that instead of social security numbers, the new cards will have "a randomly generated sequence of 11 numbers and letters." The AARP has long advocated for the change and recommends to seniors "not to carry their original Medicare card but only a copy with the last four digits of their Social Security number blotted out." Congress has allocated \$242 million for the update.

The Washington Times (9/14, Howell, 541K) reports that the new cards will go out to all 58 million Medicare enrollees by 2019. The piece quotes CMS Administrator Seema Verma as saying, "This is going to help our beneficiaries fight identify theft, keep taxpayer dollars safe and always keep the needs of patients first."

The <u>Pittsburgh Tribune-Review</u> (9/14, 236K) also covers the story.

Gottlieb: FDA Is Focused On Boosting Competition To Address Drug Prices.

Politico (9/14, Diamond, 3.6M) reports FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb told Politico's Pro Policy Summit on Thursday that his agency is focused on increasing pharmaceutical competition to reduce drug prices. Gottlieb said, "We think about it from the standpoint of competition, trying to facilitate competition," noting that the FDA is targeting generic drugs as away to address cost and access issues. He added that the agency has focused on increasing competition for a while, but is now working on being more transparent about those internal deliberations.

FDA Approves Biosimilar Version Of Bevacizumab. Reuters (9/14, Clarke) reports that yesterday, the FDA "said...it has approved" a "biosimilar version of" Avastin (bevacizumab).

The <u>San Francisco Business Times</u> (9/14, Leuty, Subscription Publication, 904K) reports that in a press release, FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb said, "Bringing new biosimilars to patients, especially for diseases where the cost of existing treatments can be high, is an important way to help spur competition that can lower health care costs and increase access to important therapies."

Medscape (9/14, Chustecka, 226K) reports, "Like the reference product, the biosimilar bevacizumab is approved for use in several types of cancer, including metastatic colorectal cancer, non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), renal cell carcinoma, cervical cancer, and glioblastoma."

FDA Approves Copanlisib To Treat Follicular Lymphoma. Reuters (9/14, Clarke) reports that the Food and Drug Administration approved Bayer AG's Aliqopa (copanlisib) for the treatment of follicular lymphoma. The drug is "a kinase inhibitor that blocks certain enzymes that promote cell growth" and is "designed for patients who have received at least two prior treatments." The agency granted accelerated approval based upon a clinical trial in which 59 percent of patients "experienced a complete or partial shrinkage of their tumors for a median 12.2 months."

MedPage Today (9/14, Gever, 60K) reports that Richard Pazdur, MD, acting director of the Office of Hematology and Oncology Products in the FDA's drugs division, said, "Options are limited for [relapsed] patients and today's approval provides an additional choice for treatment, filling an unmet need for them."

Paulsen: FDA Needs To Be Modernized. Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-MN) writes in The Hill (9/14, 1.68M) that the FDA is in need of modernization. The scope of the agency "has grown considerably in recent decades, with the agency having jurisdiction over a vast spectrum of products" ranging from vaccines and prescription drugs, to sunscreen and tobacco products. A key area in need of reform is the "current timeline surrounding prescription drug and vaccine approvals." Paulsen warns that "bureaucratic delays in the approval process can have tragic consequences." Additionally, the approval process for generic medications comes "at far too slow of a pace under current practices." Paulsen advocates for a "policy of reciprocity approval with 'A-list'



foreign counterparts" and granting more "accelerated approvals" for "serious or life-threatening" diseases for which there is an "unmet medical need." Paulsen also writes that he opposes funding cuts to the NIH, but recognize "there are significant ways to better prioritize how research dollars are spent."

FDA To **Treat** Approves App Substance Abuse. CNBC (9/14, McCann. 3.48M) reports the FDA on Thursday approved for the first time a "mobile to help treat substance disorders." abuse Start-up company Pear **Therapeutics** developed the app, which "digitizes...cognitive behavioral therapy" and "is designed to be prescribed by clinician and used alongside counseling."

Fortune (9/14, Mukherjee, 1.51M) reports the "Reset" app is "cleared to assist in outpatient therapy for alcohol, cocaine, marijuana, and stimulant addiction," but "is notably not permitted for treating opioid dependence." According to the article, clinical studies showed "more than 40% of patients who used the Reset system in addition to standard therapy abstained from alcohol, cocaine, marijuana, and stimulant substance abuse over a three month period," versus only 17.6% of those receiving "standard therapy alone."

HealthDay (9/14, Roberts, 11K) reports Carlos Peña, Ph.D., director of the FDA's Division of Neurological and Physical Medicine Devices, said the app "is an example of how innovative digital technologies can help provide patients access to additional tools during their treatment." The article also mentions that the FDA, citing SAMHSA, defines substance abuse disorder as when chronic substance use causes "significant impairment, such as health problems, disability and failure to meet major responsibilities at work, school or home."

New Product Claims It May Reduce Peanut Allergies In Infants. The New York Times (9/14, Rabin, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) "Well" reports a new powered peanut product, called Hello, Peanut, "is the first food item allowed to claim it may reduce peanut allergies in infants, though parents of susceptible babies are urged to consult a doctor before trying it." The FDA allowed the product "to make the claim just months after the nation's top allergy experts reversed longstanding advice on preventing peanut allergies, dropping recommendations to

withhold all peanut-containing foods in early childhood in favor of early, frequent exposure." Officials said this is the first time a food product label is allowed to make a "qualified claim that it reduces the risk of an allergy." **FDA** Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb said, "The guidelines for how to approach allergens in children are changing, the science is changing, and it's important for parents to know." The availability of these products "should make it easier for parents to implement the new approach to preventing peanut allergies, which have increased in prevalence in recent years." Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said, "People who don't have children with these allergies don't always appreciate the very real danger of a deleterious event that might even lead to death, but even more important, the extraordinary anxiety that pervades the families of children with documented peanut allergies who are afraid of exposing their children."

House \$1.2 Trillion Spending Bill Adds \$9 Billion In NIH Funding. The AP (9/14. Taylor) reports the House of Representatives on Thursday "passed a sweeping \$1.2 trillion spending bill that provides billions more dollars for the military while sparing medical research and popular community development programs from deep cuts sought by President Donald Trump." Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) said, "It does everything from strengthening our national defense and veterans' programs to cracking down on illegal immigration to protecting life to cutting abusive Washington agencies like the IRS and the EPA." The bill adds nearly \$9 billion to Trump's funding request for medical research at the National Institutes of Health, "rather than accepting sharp cuts recommended by Trump." Science Magazine (9/14, Malakoff, 399K) also covers the story.

Dogs Participating In Clinical Trials Of Immuno-Oncology Treatments. Forbes (9/14, Weintraub, 5.11M) contributor Arlene Weintraub reports that the "idea of involving pets that develop cancer naturally in clinical trials of new treatments is gaining stream in cancer research." Domesticated cats and dogs "develop many of the same cancers people do," so they offer an "opportunity to preview immune-boosting treatments in species that are very much like us,

both in their genetic makeup and in how they experience cancer." The National Cancer Institute supports this research, "and last year it solicited funding applications from scientists interested in performing clinical trials of immuno-oncology treatments in dogs."

Immunotherapy Trials Increased In Popularity Since "False Dawn" Of IL-2.

The Economist (9/15, 846K) reports that the discovery of interleukin 2 (IL-2) in 1976 was a "false dawn" in immunotherapy because "it activated the immune system indiscriminately, and the immune system is a powerful beast." Elad Sharon, at the National Cancer Institute's division of treatment and diagnosis, said the effects were "toxic and messy, and frequently sent patients to the ICU." Immunotherapy was "in exile" for many years, but in 1999, "Tasuku Honjo of the University of Kyoto, in Japan, showed that the gene for a protein called PD-1 also seemed to tamp down the immune system." Later evidence would suggest that "checkpoint inhibitors could also get results with lung cancers, which are a much bigger killer than, and thus represent a much larger market than, malignant melanomas." The field of immunotherapy is still new, but "it has already radically shifted the treatment and research landscape."

Current **Anti-Cancer Technology Evolving To Better Treat Patients.** The Economist (9/14, 846K) reports on how anticancer technology has evolved to better treat patients. Locating targets for cancer therapies "has been made far easier by the sequencing of the human genome and the remarkable reductions in the cost of sequencing DNA which followed on from it." According to The Economist, "hundreds of thousands of cancers have now been sequenced, and the hunt for targets is seeing diminishing returns." Much work is now "focused not on finding new targets but on second-generation drugs aimed at targets that have already proved vulnerable; these newer drugs aim for higher efficacy, lower side effects or, ideally, both." Louis Staudt, director of the center for cancer genomics at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) "says about 1-3% of cases of lung cancer are driven by a ROS1 mutation. Dr Staudt is working on a repository for genomic information called the NCI Genomic Data Commons, which hopes to identify more low-frequency drivers of cancer."

Problem Drinking Rising Fast Among Older Americans, NIAAA Researchers

In the New York Times (9/14, Span, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) "The New Old Age" blog, Paula Span writes, "Epidemiologists at the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism...reported" that "problem drinking is rising fast among older Americans." Researchers arrived at that conclusion after comparing "data from a national survey taken in 2001 and 2002 and again in 2012 and 2013, each time with about 40,000 adults." The findings were published in the September issue of JAMA Psychiatry. The author of an accompanying editorial observed, "The traiectory over time is remarkable." Lead study author and NIAAA epidemiologist Bridget Grant, PhD, and her "team didn't investigate causes" for late-life drinking, "but she speculates that anxiety caused by the recession, which hit right between the two surveys, may have played a part."

CDC Director Warns Of Post-Hurricane Dangers. The AP (9/14) reports that US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Brenda Fitzgerald warns "the aftermath of disasters such as Hurricanes Harvey and Irma can be just as dangerous as the storms themselves." The article describes several of the greatest post-storm dangers, including "heat and humidity," electrocution, and "debris removal and cleanup hazards."

Reduction In HHS, CMS Health Insurance Marketing Budgets Will Impact North Texas Healthcare Groups. The D Healthcare Daily (TX) (9/14, Nguyen) reports that in response to HHS and CMS appropriate reductions in the include the country of the countr

CMS announcing reductions in their health-insurance marketing budgets, "Dallas-Fort Worth healthcare groups say the cuts will directly impact the North Texas market, as marketing and patient navigation organizations are affected by funding reductions." W. Steve Love, president and CEO of the DFW Hospital Council, called the decision "shocking and disappointing." He added, "Locally, we have been fortunate to have community-based patient navigators in Dallas, Tarrant, and surrounding counties. The hospitals also have patient navigators to [help] eligible beneficiaries enroll in the health insurance marketplace." Love



said he hopes HHS will reverse the funding reductions.

AHRQ, PCORI To Award Grants For Learning Health System Training And

Research. EHR Intelligence (9/14, Monica) reports that the Agency of Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) are partnering "to award grants of up to \$8 million" to "as many as ten" career development programs "for training clinician and research scientists to conduct research about learning health systems." In a statement on the National Institute of Health (NIH) website, AHRQ said, "The Learning Health System is a model in which both institutional and clinical practice partners are actively engaged and participate in the generation, adoption, and application of evidence."

HEALTH REFORM

Trump Criticizes Sanders' Single-Payer Proposal, Calls It "A Curse On

The US." TIME (9/14, Abrams, 5.85M) reports that on Thursday, President Trump "attacked Bernie Sanders' single-player health care plan on Thursday, calling it a 'curse on the U.S.'" Trump tweeted, "Bernie Sanders is pushing hard for a single payer healthcare plan – a curse on the U.S. & its people. ... I told Republicans to approve healthcare fast or this would happen. But don't worry, I will veto because I love our country & its people." The article says Sanders responded to the tweets, "saying that single-payer health care is what he believes the government should be doing," and he criticized a GOP ACA repeal plan "from earlier this year that would have cut costs and caused millions to lose their health insurance."

USA Today (9/14, Estepa, 8.62M) reports that President Trump will "never get the chance to veto the bill, because it's never going to reach his desk during this current session of Congress."

The Hill (9/14, Carter, 1.68M) reports that Sanders tweeted in response to Trump, "No Mr. President, providing health care to every man, woman and child as a right is not a curse, it's exactly what we should be doing." He added, "What is a curse is your support for throwing 23 million off health insurance. That's the curse and we won't allow you to get away with it."

Politico (9/14, 3.6M) reports that Trump is still urging Republicans to repeal and replace the ACA, even though they "have spent months trying and failing to pass such legislation."

The Hill (9/14, Hellmann, 1.68M) reports that Sanders unveiled his "Medicare for All" plan on Wednesday "with the support of 16 Senate Democrats, more support than he's ever received for single-payer bills he has proposed in the past."

NBC News (9/14, Seitz-Wald, 3.46M) reports on its website that Trump's "veto threat is aimed at raising the profile of Sanders and his movement to use them against more moderate Democrats, especially those...running for re-election in states Trump won next year."

The <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/14, Giaritelli, 465K) and the <u>Los Angeles Times</u> (9/14, Decker, 4.49M) also cover the story.

Trump Says McCain's Vote Against The Senate's ACA Repeal Bill Led To Sanders' Single-Payer Proposal. U.S.

News & World Report (9/14, Levy, 1.73M) says President Trump "blamed the new momentum among Democrats to push for a single-payer health care system on one man": Sen. John McCain (R-AZ). The article says Trump accused McCain of causing "a split in the Republican party's resolve to repeal the Affordable Care Act when he voted against a plan to repeal parts of the health care law." Trump is quoted as saying on Thursday, "We had a surprise from John McCain, and we had the vote and then John McCain came out of nowhere. ... It was a very unpleasant surprise, and now what are we looking at? We have people now talking about single-payer, and that's what we get."

The <u>Washington Times</u> (9/14, Miller, 541K) reports that Trump "still holds a grudge against" McCain because of the senator's vote against Senate Republicans' ACA repeal bill.

Graham Urges Trump To Focus On ACA Repeal Ahead Of Reconciliation

Deadline. Politico (9/14, Nelson, 3.6M) reports Sen. Lindsey Graham said yesterday that President Trump's "attention should be on repealing and replacing Obamacare, not forging a deal with Democrats on immigration and border security," because "time is quickly running out for Republicans to make good on their long-held pledge to" repeal the ACA. Politico adds that "because of the Senate's parliamentary rules



regarding reconciliation...GOP senators have only until the end of the month to pass repeal-and-replace legislation with a simple majority of 51 votes." After that, "any repeal and replace bill would be forced to clear the Senate's typical 60-vote threshold, an all but impossible ask." Graham and Sen. Bill Cassidy have "proposed a last-ditch repeal-and-replace bill that would block grant all of the money spent by the federal government on Obamacare back to the states."

Cassidy was asked on MSNBC's Morning Joe (9/14, 983K) what he would like the President to do to help advance his healthcare bill. Cassidy said, "We need, obviously, the CBO to score more rapidly, and we will be speaking to our individual senators to get on board the bill. We've already begun those discussions, very promising. And we need governors. ... The President can help with all that."

Sen. Barrasso Wants CBO to Score Sanders' "Medicare For All" Proposal.

The Hill (9/14, Roubein, 1.68M) reports that Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY) wants the Congressional Budget Office "to analyze the cost of Sen. Bernie Sanders' (I-Vt.) 'Medicare for all' bill, which could fuel Republican attacks that a single-payer system would bankrupt the country." Barrasso wrote to the CBO, saying he is "deeply concerned that Senator Sanders' Medicare-for-All legislation is not only a government takeover of health care, but would also put financial burdens on the American people that they cannot sustain." He mentioned a 2016 estimate by the Urban Institute which indicated "a previous plan from Sanders would cost \$32 trillion over 10 years."

The Washington Examiner (9/14, Leonard, 465K) reports that Barrasso also said in his letter that Sanders' single-payer proposal "is being sold as a new health system paid for completely by the government, with no restrictions and at no cost to the patient. ... Of course, such a system would be anything but free to the American taxpayer."

Growing Support For Single-Payer Among Dems Shows Sanders' Influence In The Party. Roll Call (9/14, Williams, 134K) reports, "The seismic shift in support for Sen. Bernie Sanders' plan to transform the U.S. health care system into a single-payer program" demonstrates the influence Sanders has in the Democratic Party. The article says Sanders is attempting to define the party's future, and his

bill is supported by several "2020 Democratic presidential hopefuls." The piece adds that the proposal has "also provided a welcome talking point for Republicans who have long railed against government-run health care."

Sanders Reportedly Fails To Explain How His Single-Payer Plan Will Be

Funded. Vann R. Newkirk II writes in The Atlantic (9/14, 1.64M) that support for Sanders' bill "is unprecedented, both in the scope - it would in essence nationalize one-sixth of the largest economy in world history - and in seriousness." While "the initiative is almost certainly doomed over the course of the next few iterations of Congress, it's now a rallying point, one its creators and sponsors aim to make the center of Democratic policymaking for years to come." Newkirk points out, however, that Sanders failed to explain precisely how the bill will be funded. which is crucial. He argues that "while relegating the less sexy, and much more controversial funding elements to the background is perhaps politically pragmatic, putting it off can only hurt the policy in the long run."

Analysis: Americans Are "Ambivalent" About Single-Payer, Not "Clamoring" For It As Sanders

Contends. In an analysis piece, the AP (9/14, Woodward, Swanson) reports that consumers "are not clamoring for single-payer health care, as Sen. Bernie Sanders suggests they are, in proposing a plan that would have the government foot most medical bills." The article says that while support for single-payer has grown markedly, polls indicate that "the prevailing sentiment is ambivalence." That is because while the prospect of saving money on healthcare costs is attractive, raising taxes "to cover those costs may dull the appetite."

David Weigel writes in the Washington Post (9/14, Weigel, 10.38M) "Power Post" blog that Sanders has enlisted Canadians to his cause and invited Danielle Martin, a Toronto physician and academic, to his podcast for a 32-minute interview. The piece quotes Sanders' push for his single-payer plan: "For decades, every man, woman and child in Canada has been guaranteed health care through a single-payer, publicly funded health care program" which has "not only improved the lives of the Canadian people but has



also saved families and businesses an immense amount of money."

Number Of Uninsured Veterans Would Increase If ACA Were Repealed, Study Indicates. Stars And Stripes (9/14 Wentling

Indicates. Stars And Stripes (9/14, Wentling, 8K) reports that according to the Rand Corp., the American Health Care Act, which House Republicans passed in May, "would increase the number of aging, sick and low-income veterans without insurance and put pressure on an overburdened Veterans Affairs system." Data show 9.1 percent of veterans under the age of 65 were uninsured in 2013. That figure dropped to 5.8 percent in 2015, thanks to Medicaid expansion under the ACA. The study concluded that repealing the ACA "would reverse those gains."

Healthcare Debate Becomes Part Of Baldwin's Bid For Re-Election Next

Year. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (9/14, Glauber, 628K) reports that Sen. Tammy Baldwin's (D-WI) "embrace this week of 'Medicare for All' drew immediate criticism from her" GOP challengers, businessman Kevin Nicholson (R) and state Sen. Leah Vukmir (R). However, Nicholson "may discover that in next year's Republican primary, the health care debate could cut both ways. Seventeen years ago, Nicholson was president of the College Democrats of America" at a time when the national party "passed a...platform that included a section supporting universal health coverage." The paper says that Nicholson and Vukmir have done some mild sparring over "conservative credentials" in the GOP race.

Cuts To Outreach Efforts May Impact Low-Income Iowans Who Purchase ACA Plans. The Cedar Rapids (IA) Gazette (9/14, Murphy, 147K) reports that the Trump Administration recently said it would significantly "for advertising and staffing cut funding designated to help individuals sign up for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act...saying previous funding levels were extraneous." This means low-income lowans who purchase individual plans through the ACA exchange "may not have as much help as in recent years, health care officials and experts warn." The article says local healthcare officials are worried "the reduction will hamper efforts to reach low-income lowans who wish to obtain health insurance under the

federal program, or to educate those who may not be aware they are eligible for the program and its financial assistance."

ACA Had Significant Impact On Number Of Insured, Census Data Indicate. The Washington Post (9/14, Bump, 10.38M) reports that according to data from the Census Bureau, the US uninsured rate was 8.6 percent in 2016. That figure was 14.5 percent in 2013, which means last year's rate represents a 40 percent decline. The article says this means some 19 million Americans have gained access to healthcare coverage. However, there significant differences "between those states that took advantage of the ACA's expansion of Medicaid and those that didn't." Typically, "states that expanded Medicaid at the outset now have an uninsured rate of about 6.1 percent, a decline of 5.9 percentage points since 2013." comparison, more than 10 percent of the population is uninsured in states which did not expand Medicaid.

Single-Payer Plan Similar To Sanders' "Failed...Really Badly" In Colorado.

Dylan Matthews writes in a Vox (9/14, 1.54M) piece that last November, Colorado voters "rejected a ballot measure to enact a state-based single-payer system by an astounding margin of 79 percent to 21 percent." The measure, Amendment 69, "would have created a system in which all Coloradans would gain insurance through a tax-funded government insurance program," thus rendering private health insurers obsolete. Matthews adds that Sen. Bernie Sanders' "Medicare for All" proposal is similar to Amendment 69, which "failed – really, really, really badly."

Senate HELP Committee Hopes To Complete ACA Stabilization Measure By Early Next Week. The Hill (9/14, Roubein, 1.68M) reports the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee "intends to craft a bipartisan bill to stabilize the insurance markets by early next week, enabling the full Senate to pass it by the end of the month," according to chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN). The article says Alexander announced this goal on Thursday during the committee's fourth hearing about how to stabilize ACA marketplaces. The piece adds that the bill is likely to include

funding for cost-sharing reduction payments, more flexibility for states, and increased access to lower-cost plans.

The Washington Examiner (9/14, Leonard, 465K) reports that according to Alexander, "appropriating funds to insurers to help ease the cost of Obamacare premiums was a reasonable tradeoff for a bill that would give states flexibility." He stated, "To get a result, Republicans will have to agree to do something, additional funding through the Affordable Care Act, that some are reluctant to support. And Democrats will have to agree to something, more flexibility for states, that some may be reluctant to support."

Modern Healthcare (9/14, Meyer, Subscription Publication, 238K) reports that Alexander did not mention adding a new reinsurance program in his comments, adding that GOP conservatives "strongly oppose" such a measure.

Some Dems Willing To Consider ACA's To Alternatives Individual Mandate. Morning Consult (9/14, Reid) reports some Democrats "are willing to look at alternatives to the mandate that requires most Americans to obtain health insurance or pay a penalty." The article says there is "some Republican support" for those alternatives. The piece adds that Sens. Claire McCaskill (D-MO) and Tim Kaine (D-VA) "have expressed interest in automatically enrolling uninsured Americans in a low-cost insurance plan, a proposal that was included in one Republican plan to repeal Obamacare earlier this year." Meanwhile, "10 moderate House Democrats raised auto-enrollment as a potential tool to increase coverage and stabilize the Obamacare exchanges in a health care proposal released in July."

Group Bipartisan Of **Senators** Working On ACA Stabilization Bill Still At Odds. The Washington Examiner (9/14, Leonard, 465K) reports Senate HELP committee members hope "to ease rising premiums and insurer exits from Obamacare in the face of a tight deadline," but "they aren't certain if Senate leaders will up take the proposal in time or if it would receive a warm welcome in the House or from President Trump." The article says the lawmakers are also "divided in their goals: Democrats want to inject more funding into the exchanges so that premiums will drop, while Republicans seek to give states more flexibility over their healthcare systems." The panel's chairman, Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN), "said he hopes that committee members can agree to the trade-off as a compromise."

Op-Ed Says Insurers May Be Willing To Compromise With Sanders On Single-Payer. Contributor Bruce Japsen writes in a Forbes (9/14, 5.11M) piece that the largest insurance companies in the US "don't want to see their role diminished as a manager of health benefits for seniors and therefore oppose Bernie Sanders 'Medicare for All' single payer health plan." However, Japsen adds that the companies seem "open to offering the liberal Vermont Senator a path to expanding coverage if it involves bolstering private Medicare Advantage plans, which insurers sell to seniors via contracts with the federal government."

Sponsors Of Latest ACA Repeal Bill Seek To Garner Support Among Colleagues. The Washington Examiner (9/14, King, 465K) reports that Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Dean Heller (R-NV), and Ron Johnson (R-WI) "are working to convince their colleagues to support their last-ditch effort to gut Obamacare." They "met with the Republican conference Thursday as part of a luncheon." The article says this event "is among a series of opening moves the senators are making to muster support from 46 other Republicans before a deadline at the end of the month."

Rep. Louie Gohmert Pushing Senators To Pass ACA Repeal Bill Before Month's End. The Washington Examiner (9/14, Kasperowicz, 465K) reports that Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-TX) "said he and other Republicans will pressure the Senate to pass some kind of Obamacare repeal bill before the end of the month, before the Senate loses its chance to pass a bill with just a simple majority, without help from Democrats." The lawmaker "said House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., is also interested in putting pressure on the Senate when they return" from a one-week recess.

Senator GOP Whipping Support For Graham-Cassidy ACA Repeal Bill. The Hill (9/14, Carney, 1.68M) reports in its "Floor Action" blog that Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas) is

measuring support for a new bill by Sens. Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy "to repeal and replace ObamaCare as lawmakers head toward an end-of-the-month deadline." When asked about the vote counting, Cornyn said, "...my hope is we'll get that preliminary information back in the next few days."

New Mexico Officials Say State Insurance Market Has Stabilized. Santa Fe New Mexican (9/14, Krasnow, 42K) reports that according to New Mexico Superintendent of Insurance John Franchini, health insurance rates on the state's Affordable Care Act are set to rise between 17 percent and 20 percent and will be finalized Friday. Franchini said the state insurance market has stabilized as four insurance providers will be offering plans in 2018, despite federal policy uncertainties.

South Carolina Insurance Chief Urges Congress To Fund CSR Payments.

The Charleston (SC) Post and Courier (9/14, Wildeman, 269K) reports South Carolina Department of Insurance Director Ray Farmer testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Education, Labor & Pensions Health, Thursday, "urg[ing] U.S. senators to continue funding payments to make insurance more affordable for those buying on the private market." Farmer, a critic of the Affordable Care Act, encouraged Congress to renew the cost-sharing reduction program, saying it is, "The best option is for the federal government to pay its obligations under law."

Commentary Considers Health Reform. Numerous outlets offer opinions on health reform.

Paul Krugman writes in his New York Times (9/15, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) column that President Trump wants Congress to quickly pass a tax reform plan, but he has not offered them a proposal. Krugman says, "The story of tax reform – actually, given the likely content of whatever legislative proposal may finally emerge, we should call it tax 'reform' – is starting to look a bit similar" to the ACA one. He argues that Republicans were dishonest about the ACA, and that allowed them to gain control of both chambers of Congress and the White House, but when "the public realized that tens of millions would lose coverage under Republican plans,

there was a huge backlash; that backlash may give Democrats the House next year, despite all the gerrymandering and other structural disadvantages they face."

Tom Toles writes in The Washington Post (9/14, 10.38M) that despite multiple attempts by Republicans to stop the Affordable Care Act, the dynamic that "health care as a citizen right has taken root in the United States." The GOP is "caught in a trap" of either working to "fix and extend Obamacare, which they as yet show no signs of doing, or let it fail and demolish coverage that people want and now expect – leaving single-payer as the clear, understandable, popular alternative."

Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D) writes in the Washington Post (9/14, 10.38M) that the Trump Administration "continues to sabotage the Affordable Care Act by refusing to guarantee the cost-sharing reduction (CSR) payments that insurers rely upon to offset lost revenue from providing subsidies to low-income individuals." This antagonistic attitude furthers the instability in the insurance markets, which in turn will be "felt by thousands of Virginians."

Jennifer Rubin writes for the <u>Washington Post</u> (9/14, 10.38M) in its "Right Turn" blog warning against letting Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) "pull the wool over the eyes of Democrats the way Trump snookered the whole country" on promises of "wonderful" healthcare. Rubin cites Jonathan Chait who warns, "Designing a single-payer system means not only covering the uninsured, but financing the cost of moving the 155 million Americans who have employer-based insurance onto Medicare. That is not a detail to be worked out. It is the entire problem."

Catherine Rampell writes for the Washington Post (9/14, 10.38M) that in their push for single-payer healthcare, Democrats will "abandon thoughtful, detail-oriented bean-counting" and instead "chant virtue-signaling catchphrases." Sen. Bernie Sanders' "Medicare for All" bill had 16 co-sponsors who "had to sign on" as single-payer "is rapidly evolving into a litmus test for Democrats." More than a catch phrase, Rampell writes that shifting to single-payer "involves painful political choices, sharp tax hikes and some degree of buy-in from the many stakeholders who are going to get shafted in the transition." On this and other major questions, Rampell says "the Sanders plan punts."

Eugene Robinson writes for the <u>Washington</u> Post (9/14, 10.38M) that what Bernie Sanders' "Medicare for all" idea has going for it is that "It's the right thing to do." Robinson writes that the question now "is whether Democrats will continue to settle for half-measures or finally demand what the party has claimed to want for decades."

The Wall Street Journal (9/14, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) editorializes on the ACA replacement bill unveiled this week by Sens. Graham and Sen. Cassidy. The Journal says that Graham-Cassidy is not an ideal solution to the country's healthcare problems, but concludes it does signify progress toward undoing the ACA. Moreover, the Journal warns Republicans that if they miss this opportunity to repeal Obamacare, their voters will remember in 2018.

In an editorial, <u>Bloomberg View</u> (9/14, 4.52M) writes that Democrats have an opening to "advance ideas for building on the gains accomplished by the Affordable Care Act," but Sen. Bernie Sanders' [I-VT] proposed single-payer system "is unwise both on the merits and as a matter of political strategy." Bloomberg View calls Sanders' proposal "needlessly radical," and instead argues that "a better way to extend health insurance to 28.1 million Americans who still need it is to take incremental steps – starting with the bipartisan effort to shore up the ACA now under way in the Senate."

Writing in the Washington Examiner (9/14, 465K), Philip Klein dismisses Sen. Bernie Sanders' single-payer proposal as "a complete joke" that does not "describe how he would expect to pay for this ambitious idea or deal with massive disruption it would mean for businesses, workers, and those trying to access care." Klein says that if "Sanders wanted to demonstrate that single-payer is closer to reality, he would have grappled with the real obstacles to his vision," instead of releasing a bill "that is nothing more than liberal fan service."

Matthew Yglesias writes in Vox (9/14, 1.54M) that Medicare-for-all legislation is deliberately a "very high bid" that is "unlikely to be enacted by any realistic political coalition." But, while the "roadblocks to a single-payer health care system are very large," Yglesias says they are "fundamentally different from" the GOP push to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, because the latter is a "con job" that attempted to "bridge a fundamentally unbridgeable gap between the American people's complaints about

the ACA – premiums, deductibles, and copayments that were too high – and the Republican Party donor class's complaints about the ACA: that it levied too much in taxes."

Newt Gingrich and Tom Daschle write in The Hill (9/14, 1.68M) that Section 1332 waivers give states flexibility to bypass some of the ACA's "requirements and to help develop localized ways to lower health-care costs, broaden coverage and improve treatment in their states." The former Congressional leaders say that "expanding this flexibility...could be the key to unlocking some of the partisan gridlock surrounding health-care reform."

Dr. Deane Waldman and Jennifer Minjarez, the director and a policy analyst with the Center for Health Care Policy at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, write in The Hill (9/14, 1.68M) that that states can apply for three waivers to "get relief from ObamaCare's expensive mandates." They argue that in "the absence of effective national healthcare reform, reform at the state level with waivers can circumvent oppressive federal mandates and allow the states, who know local needs and constraints best, to allocate resources optimally."

Paige Winfield Cunningham writes in The Washington Post (9/14, 10.38M) "The Health 202" that US lawmakers do not seem "especially interested in borrowing from the range of" healthcare approaches "taken by other countries like, say, France, Japan or the Netherlands, which have achieved near-universal health coverage and whose systems enjoy much greater public favor." Republicans are instead focusing on "repealing the Affordable Care Act and replacing it with bills that would cover far fewer people and are deeply unpopular," while Democrats support single-payer plans "that Republican will surely block."

The <u>Huffington Post</u> (9/14, 5.74M) contributor Richard Eskow writes that when nearly one-third of Senate Democrats "are saying health care is a human right and a public good," it is "a declaration of principle." Eskow says Medicare for All is symbolic of all "health activism fronts, and all of them can be perused with a single, unifying goal in mind."

Michael Tanner writes for the New York Post (9/14, 4.31M) that Sen. Bernie Sanders' "Medicare for All" a single-payer plan "would put government firmly in charge" of healthcare. The plan is "long on promises," but "independent



analysts suggest it will cost at least \$1.4 trillion per year" and "most Americans will be worse off" from tax hikes and job losses, Tanner writes.

Jonathan Bernstein writes for Bloomberg View (9/14, 4.52M) that Sen. Bernie Sanders single-payer health care plan has "few details and only vague ideas about financing," but it is nonetheless changing the Democratic Party. Sanders' bill and the support it has drawn "is best seen as a part of that ever-continuing fight over what the party will really stand for," and single-payer "has a lot of work ahead to be more than a rallying cry, the only way it's going to get that work is if it's a party priority."

Dr. Sanjeev K. Sriram writes for the Huffington Post (9/14, 5.74M) lamenting racial and geographic disparities in insurance coverage. "Medicare For All" would mean "peace of mind" and that "we are finally committing to health care as a basic human right, no matter what you earn, no matter where you live, and no matter what you look like."

Kevin Campbell writes for the Washington Examiner (9/14, 465K) that with "reimbursement cuts are on the horizon," the medical lobby, including the American Medical Association, is "playing a big role yet again in determining healthcare policy and payments to physicians." The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the AMA "often overlook compelling outcome and economic data," Campbell writes, criticizing potential reimbursement rate cuts to cardiovascular medical devices.

The Raleigh (NC) News & Observer (9/14, 381K) editorializes that President Trump and Republicans "failed to come up with a viable plan to repeal and replace the ACA, and some seemed to lose their enthusiasm for the misguided crusade after their efforts fell short." The latest repeal bill "seems little more than one more desperate attempt on the part of Republicans to do away with Obamacare, which they despise for its success."

Greg Bell writes for the <u>Deseret (UT) News</u> (9/14, 381K) that Republicans in Congress "fumbled repeal and replace in spectacular fashion" as they "had not developed an alternative." Bell faults Congressional Republicans for "not hold[ing] the mounting deficit up to the nation as an essential reason to undo Obamacare entitlements."

OPIOID NEWS

Opinion: Physicians Contributed To, Now Need To Help Reverse, The Opioid Epidemic. Dr. Peter Pronovost, an anesthesiologist and Johns Hopkins Medicine senior vice president, writes in the Wall Street Journal (9/14, Pronovost, 6.45M) that overprescription by physicians for postsurgical recovery and pain, combined with unused opioid pills, contributed to the opioid epidemic. Dr. Pronovost suggests physicians take a more precise approach to prescribing medications for pain which may include avoiding opioids altogether or lowering the number of pills prescribed. He also urges physicians to counsel patients on proper disposal of unused pills.

Prosecutors Say Insys Founder Is An Unindicted Co-Conspirator In Opioid

Case. Reuters (9/14, Raymond) reports that court documents reveal federal prosecutors have identified Insys Therapeutics Inc.'s billionaire founder, John Kapoor, as one of 80 "unindicted co-conspirators" in their case against six former executives and managers accused of participating in a scheme of bribing physicians to prescribe their fentanyl-based drug. Kapoor's attorney responded that his client has not been charged and that "he's made extensive efforts to improve the situation at the company." The defendants have pleaded not guilty and the trial is scheduled to begin in October 2018.

Indiana Begins Data Collection, Sharing Initiative To Combat Opioid

Crisis. Wired (9/14, Lapowsky, 1.62M) reports Indiana, which has been impacted "hard" by the opioid crisis and "was among a handful of states whose opioid prescriptions roughly equaled its population," recently launched an online opioid data center for law enforcement and medical services to collaborate in sharing data and assist policymakers in understanding the scope of the crisis. Gov. Eric Holcomb (R) has pushed the initiative, which features information including statistics on "drug arrests, drug seizures, death records, pharmacy robberies, overdose-related ambulance calls, and the use of naloxone." as well as the implementation of "data-visualization tools...so agencies providing the data can log in and observe trends over time." The program



includes about 16 government agencies. Donald Burke, dean of the Graduate School of Public Health at University of Pittsburgh who commented on the initiative, "says funding for the federal agencies that sponsor this kind of research – the National Institute of Drug Abuse, the Drug Enforcement Agency, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration – has fallen over the last decade."

HEALTHCARE FRAUD

Opinion: Medicaid Agencies Not Doing Enough To Stop Fraud. James Swann writes on the Bloomberg BNA (9/14, 2K) "Health Care Blog" that according to a recent Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General report, 41 out of 56 Medicaid agencies imposed 10 or fewer payment suspensions in 2014. Swann says that payment suspensions can be "effective in stopping fraudulent Medicaid providers," but having so few allows "money to continue flowing to providers under investigation for potentially defrauding the Medicaid program." Swann quotes Ellyn Sternfield, a Washington, DC, healthcare attorney, as explaining about agencies' conduct, "Most Medicaid fraud investigators I know will bend over backwards not to let a suspect know they are under investigation for a particular practice and will want the program to forgo the suspension during the duration of any investigation."

HEALTHCARE NEWS

Authorities Continue Investigation Of South Florida Nursing Home Where Eight Died. The Washington Post (9/14, Berman, 10.38M) reports that of the eight residents who died at a Hollywood, Florida nursing home that "lost its air conditioning" in the wake of Hurricane Irma, "at least one of them died Tuesday, several hours before authorities say they were alerted to the crisis...early Wednesday morning." The finding, the Post says, adds to the uncertainty surrounding the facility and how events devolved "to such an extent that several patients died and more than 100 others were" evacuated to hospitals.

USA Today (9/14, Madhani, 8.62M) reports that operators of the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills received repeated

admonishments from "state and federal officials for" failing to meet "federally-mandated standards for patient care and for dubious billing practices." The article adds that the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) on Wednesday "announced it was temporarily closing" the nursing home. According to USA Today, the AHCA "cited the nursing home for 11 health deficiencies" in its last inspection and for "17 infractions" in 2016, leading to \$5,500 in fines.

Citing AHCA spokesperson Mallory McManus, the South Florida Sun Sentinel (9/14, McMahon, Bryan, Hobbs, Pesantes, 530K) reports that "despite filing four status updates on Monday and Tuesday, the nursing home never reported to a state health department online database that patients were at risk." McManus said in an email, "At no time did the facility report that conditions had become dangerous."

Reuters (9/14, Oliphant) reports that on Thursday police obtained a search warrant "in their criminal investigation of the deaths." Police "have said little about circumstances "leading to the deaths.

The New York Times (9/14, Reisner, Fink, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that a federal rule prompted by the deaths about 215 people in hospitals and nursing homes in Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, will require that nursing homes have "alternate sources of energy to maintain temperatures to protect resident health and safety." The new rule, which will not be in enforced until November, "does not specifically require backup generators for air-conditioning systems ... and now some are questioning whether the rule should."

The AP (9/14, Reynolds, Spencer) reports that the nursing home exhibited flaws "in maintaining fire and safety standards pertaining to exits and storage areas" and had "more serious problems with its generator maintenance and testing," according to information gleaned from Feb. 2016 AHCA inspection records. The article adds that 64 nursing homes across the state remained without full power Thursday, according to AHCA.

The <u>South Florida Sun Sentinel</u> (9/13, Lade, 530K) reports that Florida does not require nursing homes have a generator, but they are in compliance as long as they have "alternate forms of power," according to AHCA spokeswoman Kristen Knapp. The AHCA said it has notified state regulators of which facilities were without power

"so utility companies can prioritize locations with the greatest need."

The South Florida Business Journal (9/14, Bandell, Subscription Publication, 882K) reports AHCA "placed an immediate moratorium on admissions" to the facility. Additionally, Gov. Scott "said AHCA and the Department of Children and Families would work with local law enforcement to investigate the deaths." The AHCA's moratorium order indicates the facility notified FPL and attempted to place portable fans and coolers around the building after discovering its air conditioning was malfunctioning following Irma's Sept. 10 landfall.

Additional coverage by TIME (9/14, 5.85M), Reuters (9/15), the South Florida Business Journal (9/14, Subscription Publication, 882K), the website of CNN (9/14, Chavez, Ellefson, Nedelman, 33.59M), and the Huffington Post (9/14, Waldron, 5.74M).

House Energy And Commerce Committee May Seek Nursing Home Oversight Following Recent Deaths.

The Hill (9/14, Weixel, 1.68M) reports that the House Energy and Commerce Committee "may begin looking at oversight of nursing facilities following the deaths of eight people in a Florida nursing home." The committee's chairman, Greg Walden (R-OR) said Thursday, "Some of these nursing home situations are very troubling ... because that's the most vulnerable population. So I think we'll want to get answers to that." The Hill says the committee may look into other posthurricane issues, such as mosquito-borne diseases, also, and adds that "Walden said he's been in contact with the National Institutes of Health regarding planning for when mosquitoes return."

Long-Term Care Industry Objected To Costs Of 2005 Bill That Would Have Mandated Generators. The Miami Herald (9/14, Miller, Klascmarbin, 701K) reports that Florida lawmakers proposed a bill after Hurricane Wilma in 2005 "that would have required some nursing homes to have generators to protect frail elders from the ravages of heat and dehydration." However, the bill failed because of "industry opposition and government miserliness." The article extensively references the Florida Health Care Association, noting that spokesperson Kristen Knapp said hospitals in the wake of

Hurricane Irma are concerned about staff shortages and generator availability. The article also says that "longtime" AHCA administrator Skip Gregory backed "an industry initiative to include nursing homes among the highest priority customers when electrical utilities deployed to restore service after hurricanes," but utilities including FPL fought against it.

Florida Nursing Home Says It Was Prepared For Irma As Investigation Continues. Max Greenwood writes for The Hill

Continues. Max Greenwood writes for The Hill (9/14, 1.68M) "Briefing Room" blog that as "federal, state and local officials" investigate eight deaths at a South Florida nursing home, the "home said it was prepared for the hurricane," and "the nursing home's administrator...said staff had stocked seven days' worth of food and were using a power generator." Administrator Jorge Carballo added that the facility is "fully cooperating with all authorities and regulators."

Florida Representative Blasts Nursing Home For Evacuation Delay. Julia Manchester writes for The Hill (9/14, 1.68M) "Briefing Room" blog that Rep. Frederica Wilson (D-FL) harshly criticized the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills, where eights elderly residents died this week following hurricane-caused power outages. Wilson called the facility's failure to evacuate its residents earlier an "abomination" as "the patients were...mere yards away" from a hospital.

Trump Administration's Support For Arbitration Agreements Could Make It Harder To Sue Florida Nursing Home.

Mark Hand writes for Think Progress (9/14, 60K) that the Trump Administration's support for arbitration agreements in nursing home contracts means "family members of the people who died at the Hollywood, Florida, nursing home are likely prohibited from filing lawsuits or taking legal action against" its owner. The story adds that "the Florida Health Care Association, which represents more than 4 in 5 nursing homes in the state, said it does not represent the Hollywood facility."

Shulkin Opens VA's Beds To Nursing Home Residents Affected By Irma. The Miami Herald (9/14, Neal, 701K) reports that VA Secretary Shulkin announced Thursday that his agency "will open beds to non-Veteran nursing

home residents affected by Hurricane Irma." Shulkin's move comes in the wake of "Wednesday's death of eight residents of a Hollywood nursing home steaming without air conditioning." Shulkin said, "We will continue to look for ways to relieve the hardship this powerful storm has caused. ... Much of the heavy-lifting to recover from the hurricane is still to come and our leaders and staff are determined to find as many ways as we can for VA to help in the response." The article adds that "the Florida Health Care Association said as of Thursday morning, 64 of the state's 683 nursing homes" still lacked power.

Police "Raid" Texas Nursing Home That Left Residents In Floodwaters.

The AP (9/14) reports that on Thursday, police "raided" Lake Arthur Place, a Texas nursing home where law enforcement found 74 elderly residents being "kept in floodwaters during Tropical Storm Harvey." A Port Arthur police affidavit said nursing home administrator Jeff Rosetta resisted evacuation efforts and was handcuffed during the process, adding that his resistance and lack of action prior to flooding resulted in injuries among residents. Rosetta and the center are under investigation.

Experts Recommend Strategies For Selecting Trustworthy Nursing Home.

The New York Times (9/14, Thomas, Subscription Publication. 13.56M) reports a list of five suggestions for helping people choose a dependable nursing home, a concern which the Times says many have following "news that eight Florida nursing home residents died in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma." Citing advice from experts in nursing home quality, the Times recommends people searching for a reliable nursing home avoid making hasty decisions; thoroughly research a facility by utilizing resources such as the federal Nursing Home Compare website; visit facilities during busier times or during times of low staffing "to gain a sense of how the facility operates when conditions are not ideal"; request a copy of the nursing home's emergency management plan; and contact local nursing home ombudsmen for additional assistance.

Opinion: Healthcare Price Shopping Process Needs Improved Transparency. Harvard associate professor

of healthcare policy and medicine Ateev Mehrotra, using a personal example, writes in STAT (9/14, 43K) that "price shop[ping] for health care" is an onerous process plagued by a lack transparency. Mehrotra says he and his "colleagues...have found that most people can't successfully shop for care," and "offering people a price transparency website" fails to "help them switch to lower-cost providers" or "decrease health care spending." Mehrotra suggests several ways the US could improve healthcare consumers' ability to price shop, including "bundl[ing] payments to hospitals and surgery centers" and establishing "a real-time 'checkout' model consistent with most other services."

US House Votes To Repeal DC's Assisted-Suicide Law, Senate Has Yet

To Act. The Washington Post (9/14, Portnoy, 10.38M) reports that the House Representatives passed a spending law that would block the District of Columbia's Death with Dignity law, prohibit subsidies for abortions for low-income residents, impede its regulation of the sale of marijuana, and block its anti-discrimination laws for workers based on their reproductive decisions. The District's assisted-suicide law passed in December by an 11-2 vote after more than a year of discussions, and supporters say it allows "terminally ill patients to choose the timing and manner of their deaths." The article adds that is now up to the Senate to either take up an identical measure or it could "stall for another year congressional efforts to rein in the District through spending-related measures."

HUMAN SERVICES NEWS

Seventy Healthcare Organizations Press Congress On DACA. The Hill (9/14, Hellmann, 1.68M) reports "seventy health care organizations," spearheaded "by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)," on Thursday pushed for Congress to establish "a legal pathway to permanent residency for" children "with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status." The article says that "Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.)" indicated Wednesday evening they "had reached an agreement in principle" with President Trump on the DACA issue.

Pennsylvania Auditor General Finds Child-Welfare System To Be "Broken"

In New Report. The Philadelphia Inquirer (9/14, Terruso, 1.71M) reports Pennsylvania Auditor General Eugene DePasquale released a report on the state's child-welfare system on Thursday, entitled "State of the Child," in which DePasquale wrote, "Pennsylvania's child welfare system is broken. This is not hyperbole or exaggeration. ... Although a year-long review found passionate, dedicated professionals doing great work, it also found an extremely problematic system with deficiencies that put children's lives at risk." The report analyzed information from 13 representative counties in the state to reach its conclusions recommendations. and which included "more funding for training for child welfare workers and up-to-date technology to help them in their jobs."

The <u>Pittsburgh Post-Gazette</u> (9/14, Giammarise, 516K) also provides coverage.

NUTRITION & OBESITY

Cardiologist Discusses Weight Gain, Metabolic Changes Tied To Artificial

Sweeteners. In the Wall Street Journal (9/14, 6.45M) "The Experts" blog, cardiologist Harlan Krumholz, MD, the Harold H. Hines, Jr. Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology and Public Health and the Yale University School of Medicine, discusses the growing number of studies suggesting that consumption of non-caloric artificial sweeteners may be causing weight gain, alterations in gut microbiota, and harmful metabolic changes. Dr. Krumholz observes that he personally is no longer drinking diet sodas and making sure he isn't consuming artificial sweeteners in his diet.

MEDICARE

Health Data Exchange Could Save Medicare \$3.12 Billion Annually, Study

Says. Health IT Analytics (9/14, Bresnick) reports that an integrated national health data exchange system could save Medicare \$3.12 billion a year by "enhancing coordinated care and fostering more effective population health management programs," according to researchers from Notre Dame and the University of Michigan.

The study looked at regional markets that have already saved an average of \$139 per beneficiary per year through health information exchange (HIE) organizations by reducing duplicate tests and procedures and having access to complete and accurate medical records, which also have made improvements in chronic disease management.

MEDICAID & CHIP

Former Sen. Frist: Children's Health Insurance Program Demands Quick, Bipartisan Passage. Former Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-TN) writes in Forbes (9/14, 5.11M) that the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is a "testament" to the goal of improving the "health of America's kids" and strengthening American families, and urges its passage. Frist reviews his decision to give up his career as a surgeon to enter public service so that he could "make a positive impact on the greatest number of lives" with legislation like CHIP.

CHIP Reauthorization Opinion: Remains Tenuous As Deadline **Approaches.** Dylan Scott writes for Vox (9/14, 1.54M) that time is running out for Congress to fund the Children's Health Insurance Program, which expires September 30. Scott praises the "outline of a deal" senators reached earlier this week, which would "extend CHIP's funding for five years" in "a big win for advocates who wanted a long-term extension." However, Scott says "three big caveats" could still hinder the process: identifying funding, gaining House approval, and the possibility of lawmakers "attach[ing] more controversial items either Obamacare stabilization or repeal provisions - to the CHIP funding."

Mexico's Finances. The AP (9/15) reports New Mexico's Human Services Department, which oversees Medicaid, has requested an \$84 million increase from the general fund due to an "increased strain" on state finances from Medicaid healthcare spending. The article says that Congress could "remove some of the pressure" by extending the Children's Health Insurance Program.



Virginia House Candidates Face Off Over Medicaid Expansion. The Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (9/14, Moomaw, 394K) reports that during a candidate forum on Wednesday for a Richmond, Virginia, state House seat between the Republican incumbent G. Manoli Loupassi and Democratic challenger and nurse practitioner Dawn Adams. M. Medicaid candidates discussed expansion. Adams declared support for expansion, calling it a "moral issue" and arguing that the state has missed out on federal dollars. Loupassi claimed that Medicaid expansion would require state tax increases and said, "I don't agree to raise your taxes."

Idaho Officials Offer Plan To Address Medicaid Gap, Lower Premiums. AP (9/14, Kruesi) reports that an Idaho healthcare advisory panel led by former Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Director Dick Armstrong presented a plan for two waivers aimed at closing the Medicaid gap and driving down premiums on the state's healthcare exchange. The proposal would allow some 35,000 working adults to buy subsidized health insurance on the exchange and would move the 2,500 "sickest adults" who account for roughly 40 percent of insurance claims off of the exchange and onto Medicaid, thus driving down premiums. The article reported that Armstrong said he had served on six advisory panels to address the Medicaid gap and to lower costs, but that all of his recommendations have "died in the Legislature."

Study Finds ACA Medicaid Expansion Tied To Earlier Cancer Care For The

Reuters (9/14, Rapaport) reports that researchers have found that more low-income adults who got diagnosed with cancer in states that expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act had health insurance and were diagnosed when their cancer was less advanced than those in states that did not expand Medicaid. Before the ACA took effect, 9.6 percent of lowincome people diagnosed with cancer were uninsured, but afterwards in states with Medicaid expansion, that proportion was just 3.6 percent. The states that did not expand Medicaid showed a lesser drop: from 14.7 percent diagnosed with cancer without insurance to 13.3 percent afterwards. The piece says that these results "suggest a need for additional expansion of access to care, especially for low-income populations."

Columnist Asks Whether Nevadans Would Pay Higher Taxes For Medicaid

Expansion. Victor Joecks writes in his Las Vegas Review-Journal (9/14, 458K) column that Medicaid expansion in Nevada may require a "massive tax increase to give 'free' health care to abled-body adults above the poverty line," and that Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval (R) and Sen. Dean Heller (R) "want Washington to continue paying the bulk of the program's tab." Joecks argues that the money the federal and state government is spending on Medicaid expansion could be used for education, and concludes, "If the Medicaid expansion is so beneficial to the state and its people, shouldn't Nevada's top elected officials be willing to ask Nevadans to pay for it themselves?"

HEALTH & MEDICAL NEWS

New Therapies Indicate Cancer Is Becoming More Survivable. The Economist (9/14, 846K) reports that cancer is the second leading cause of death globally behind heart disease. Cancer is becoming more survivable in wealthy nations, however. According to The Economist, 67 percent of US patients "will survive for at least five years," with the caveat that "different cancers fare differently, as do different sorts of patients." New research tools, including antibodies. generated rapid sequencing and ever easier genetic engineering, have revolutionised biologists' understanding of cancer. This understanding has allowed more specific approaches to the disease to be developed, and the trend will continue." The rise of immunotherapy, "once a pipe dream. has become practical medicine, with approved therapies for eight kinds of cancer. The excitement at oncology conferences is palpable."

Variety Of New Cancer Treatments Are Under Development. The Economist (9/15, 846K) reports that immunotherapy "offers huge promise, both as an addition to established therapies and as a foundation for future ones. Hundreds of trials are pairing CTLA-4, PD-1 or PD-L1 inhibitors with chemotherapy, radiation and targeted therapies." There is also the "development of further immunotherapies, which

is being pursued both by building on the successes of the first checkpoint inhibitors and by using entirely new technologies, such as genome editing." Old ideas, such as vaccination, "are coming back into vogue." Some infections can lead to cancer, so "some of these vaccinations can prevent it." Furthermore, vaccines, equipped with the right antigen, "might encourage an immune response to a tumour which is already present, but which the immune system has failed to get to grips with." Biotech firms are "pursuing the creation of personalised vaccines based on the mutations in an individual tumour."

Researchers Make **Progress** In Treating Pediatric Cancer Thanks To Donated Brain Of Former College Football Coach's Grandson. Washington Post (9/14, Payne, 10.38M) reports researchers are using the brain donated by the deceased five-year-old grandson of former University of Michigan football coach Lloyd Carr to research the tumor that killed him. Chad Carr was diagnosed with Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG) in 2014, a cancer that "causes an inoperable tumor to grow in a child's brain that proves deadly to nearly 99 percent of those who receive the diagnosis." These statistics may decline thanks to Chad's brain, researchers discovered an important gene mutation in his DIPG tumor that could potentially be controlled through an experimental treatment." Carl Koschmann, a pediatric oncologist at the University of Michigan's C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, "published his team's findings in the journal NPJ Precision Oncology on Thursday, identifying the genetic mutation as aphosphatase and tensin homolog (PTEN) loss."

Philadelphia Institutions Participating In NIH-Funded "Smart" Water Bottle Study To Reduce Kidney Stones. The Philadelphia Inquirer (9/14, Burling, 1.71M) reports Penn Medicine and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia are participating in a clinical trial "testing whether a \$55 'smart' water bottle that sends data on how much users drink to a phone app, plus financial incentives, can keep people of all ages who've had one kidney stone from getting another one." About one in 11 Americans has had a kidney stone, up 70 percent from 15 years ago. Treating kidney stones costs approximately \$10 billion each year, according to the National

Institutes of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. The goal behind the clinical trials, funded by a \$450,000 grant from the NIH's Urinary Stone Disease Research Network, is to "get people who've had kidney stones to drink more so they will urinate more."

Pennsylvania Health Department **Pittsburgh** On Issues Report Hospital's Breach Of Privacy Of Unconscious Patient. The Washington Post (9/15, Horton, 10.38M) reports Pennsylvania's Department of Health and Human Services issued a report on Wednesday concerning a "serious breach of privacy for an unconscious patient" as hospital staffers crowded into an operating room to take photos of "a patient's genitals with a foreign object protrusion." The citation led to a 28-day suspension of one physician, another for a week, and the "ousting of the surgical services nursing director" at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center's Bedford Memorial Hospital. The report indicated that photos were circulated among hospital staff and beyond the staff, as well.

Man Suffers Erectile Dysfunction After Being Scratched By Cat. Newsweek (9/14, Matthews, 991K) reports that in a "rare but true case" report (9/12, 18K) published Sept. 12 in the BMJ, a 23-year-old man "suffered from erectile dysfunction after being scratched by a cat." The man visited the emergency department "after experiencing a fever, chills and intense night sweating for five days. He also suffered from erectile dysfunction as well as pain in his lower back, pelvis, testicles and penis glands, according to the report." Physicians eventually diagnosed him with cat-scratch disease, caused by the Bartonella henselae bacterium, which was later confirmed by a bone marrow and lymph node biopsy.

March For Science Organizers Plot Long-Term Strategy. STAT (9/14, Facher, 43K) reports organizers of April's March for Science on the National Mall realized in a meeting a month after the rally that the "grass-roots organization that was quickly formed to plan a singular event was not, at least immediately, equipped for far-reaching and long-term science advocacy." Caroline Weinberg, one of the national march's co-organizers, wrote to STAT in an email,

"The big picture question was (and continues to be): How do we successfully transition from a march into a movement and how do we continue mobilize our diverse. interdisciplinary. passionate supporters for science advocacy?" The organizers will, in the coming weeks, "begin to roll out their long-term strategy" of creating structures that "sell and incorporate science into every level of daily life, and ensure that science advocates are recognized as a constituency at every level of government." There is talk of a highschool student-designed "students for science" initiative and bringing the March for Science back next April.

Roswell Park Researchers **Explore** Blocker Cancer Beta Use For Therapies. The Buffalo (NY) News (9/14, 362K) reports a research team from Roswell Park Cancer Institute "reports that beta-2 adrenergic receptors, molecules present in the cells of humans and other mammals, control the functionality of key immune cells." These receptors are responsible for the "fight or flight" response when stressed, in which they generate "more of the stress hormone norepinephrine, buffering normal cells from some damaging effects but also impeding the immune system's ability to fight cancer." The report demonstrates "that the beta-2 adrenergic receptor, also known ADRB2. can be pharmacologically manipulated." The article mentions the research was supported by grants from the National Cancer Institute, among other cancer organizations.

Finds Shortcomings Report In Biomedical Research. The NPR (9/14, Greenfieldboyce, 2.4M) "Shots" blog reports the conclusion of a report released Thursday by the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine concluded that existing practices and "so-called dual-use policies on biological research" have "serious shortcomings." The Federal government has attempted to "mitigate the risks of dual-use research by setting up special committees, issuing new policies for reviewing federally funded research, and putting restrictions on what government-funded scientists can do with certain viruses like influenza." The report found the government's "current policies focus on seven types of experiments with 15 select pathogens and toxins and don't capture the

full range of biosecurity concerns that come from the life sciences."

Happy Music May Stimulate Creativity, Study Suggests. Reuters (9/14, Crist) reports that "listening to happy music" may encourage creative thinking, according to a study published in PLoS ONE. The study involved five groups of approximately 30 students each who were "randomly assigned to listen to one of four pieces of music or to silence before and during...creativity tasks." Only "happy music" made "a significant difference in performance on the creativity test."

In Long-Term Relationships, Women Are More Likely Than Men To Lose Interest In Sex, Study Suggests. USA Today (9/14, Bowerman, 8.62M) reports that women are more apt than men "to lose interest in sex while in a longterm relationship," according to a recent study published in BMJ Open. Of the "4,839 British men and 6,669 women aged 16-74" surveyed, "15% of men and 34.2% of women reported lacking interest in sex" for at least three months of the prior year, the story says. USA Today adds that the study found "women were more likely to lose interest in sex when living with a partner or while in a relationship lasting over a year."

The <u>Atlanta Journal-Constitution</u> (9/14, Parker, 1.16M) also covers the story.

Physician Says "Nudges" Can Help Seriously III Patients Make Hard End-Of-Life Decisions. STAT (9/14, Tedeschi, 43K) interviews University of Pennsylvania critical care physician Dr. Scott Halpern, who, the article says, believes a "nudge," or "framing a set of choices" to influence a person toward a certain decision "without shutting out other options," can be beneficial for patients making "end-of-life decisions." For example, Halpern says if physicians can "hel[p] patients see that by completing an advance directive they'll reduce decision-making burdens for their loved ones, many more patients will end up doing it because that's of such great importance to people."

House Votes To Prohibit Funding Of District Of Columbia Reproductive Health Law. Cristina Marcos writes in The Hill (9/14, Marcos, 1.68M) "Floor Action" blog that the



House on Thursday voted in favor of a Republican measure to deny federal funding to D.C. to implement a "law which bans employers from punishing workers for obtaining contraception, family planning services or abortions." The measure "was adopted on a mostly party-line vote of 214-194." The measure's sponsor, Rep. Gary Palmer (R-AL), said, "This law prevents religious and pro-life advocacy organizations from making employment decisions consistent with their institutional mission. Without my amendment, some employers in the District of Columbia would be forced to embrace the beliefs of the 13 members of the D.C. Council."

Ohio House Speaker Says Flu Vaccine Bill Moved Too Quickly, Needs Work.

The Columbus (OH) Dispatch (9/14, Siegel, 456K) reports that an Ohio bill "that would largely prohibit hospitals and other employers from requiring" employee flu shots received a negative response from House speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R) on Wednesday. Rosenberger said he thought the bill advanced through committee "a little quickly" and said the House would "look at drawing that back a little back so we can have a little more time on the bill and give it more hearings." The article says the bill likely will be "re-referr[ed]...to a committee." The Dispatch adds that the bill faced "opposition from every major state health-care association and the Ohio Chamber of Commerce."

Abortion Rates Fall As More Hospitals Are Acquired By Catholic-Affiliated Systems, Study Suggests. Modern (9/14. Healthcare Johnson. Subscription Publication, 238K) reports that "as more hospitals become Catholic-affiliated," they are performing significantly fewer "inpatient abortions and other reproductive health services" prohibited Catholicism, a new study determined. In a sixstate analysis of Catholic hospitals, the study "found per-bed annual rates of inpatient abortions dropped by 30%" and "rates of sterilization via tubal ligation also decreased by 31%."

Enzalutamide Shows Promising Results For Patients With Early Stage Prostate Cancer In Clinical Trial.

Reuters (9/14, Grover) reports that Pfizer and Astellas Pharma announced that Xtandi (enzalutamide), "in combination with an anti-hormone therapy," met the main goal in a clinical

trial for patients with early stage prostate cancer. The drug "was statistically significant in improving survival in men with non-metastatic CRPC without their cancer spreading, compared with the standalone anti-hormone therapy." Fierce Pharma (9/14, Staton) reports that details from the clinical trial "won't be available until they're presented at an upcoming medical conference," but "the results were good enough to prompt conversations with regulators about a new approval in all patients with castration-resistant prostate cancer."

Moderna, AstraZeneca's Experimental Heart Drug Shows Promising Results In Early Trial. Reuters (9/14, Mukhopadhyay) reports that AstraZeneca and Modern Therapeutics' experimental heart drug, mRNA

Therapeutics' experimental heart drug, mRNA AZD-8601, "met the main goal in an early-stage trial." AstraZeneca has applied for a mid-stage clinical trial of the drug in Europe.

Fierce Biotech (9/14, Adams) reports that the drug "works to express a local and transient surge of vascular endothelial growth factor-A (VEGF-A) as a potential treatment for cardiovascular diseases."

Additional coverage is provided by the <u>Financial Times</u> (9/14, Crow, Subscription Publication, 1.34M).

Romosozumab Reduces Risk Of Bone Fractures Women With ln Osteoporosis, Study Indicates. The Birmingham (AL) Business Journal Patchen, Subscription Publication, 870K) reports that romosozumab "has been shown to reduce the risk of bone fractures in women with osteoporosis" by boosting bone formation in a clinical trial. The study compared romosozumab "against one of the primary standards of care for osteoporosis, a drug called alendronate." The findings are published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Funding Companies Investors **Developing Technologies To Improve** Medication Adherence. **STAT** (9/14, Robbins, 43K) reports that investors are "pumping money into companies" developing technologies "aimed at helping patients take their medications as prescribed." According to STAT, medication adherence costs pharmaceutical industry \$376 billion each year.

Drugs Approved Under Expedited Review Have Higher Rate Of Changes To Safety Warnings, Study Finds.

STAT (9/14, Silverman, 43K) reports that a study published in BMJ suggests that "medicines that were approved using expedited regulatory procedures had a 38 percent higher rate of changes to safety warnings on product labels." It also found a 48 percent higher rate to changes for boxed warnings and contraindications.

Federal Investigation Results In New Confession In International Counterfeit Pet Pharmaceutical Scam.

The Houston Chronicle (9/14, Banks, 1.97M) reports California vendor Sean L. Gerson confessed this week that "he had been peddling unregistered and smuggled animal pesticides online for 15 years, landing \$2.5 million in profits," marking the latest development in a five-year joint between the Department of investigation Homeland Security and the Food and Drug Administration with connections to Los Angeles, Houston, and Galveston. According to Assistant Special Agent in Charge Richard Valverson, "The products that these guys were selling ended up all over the U.S. ... We were seeing it penetrate the legitimate supply chain, on the web, but also big brand name stores had received some of this product." Assistant US Attorney Joseph Johns said, "Our goal with these prosecutions has been to dismantle the entire smuggling and distribution network for these illegal products."

Commentary Supports Philip Morris' Risk Modified Tobacco **Product** Application For IQOS Technology. The Washington Examiner (9/14, Bentley, 465K) features commentary from Reason Foundation research associate Guy Bentley supporting Philip Morris' Modified Risk Tobacco Product application to the FDA for the company's heat-not-burn vaping product IQOS. According to Bentley. "Because there is no combustion in IQOS, there is no smoke, which means levels of lethal chemicals found in cigarette smoke are dramatically reduced," making the products a reasonable choice for MRTP eligibility. Bentley concludes, "If the FDA is serious about providing smokers the best possible options to guit and avoid an early grave, granting the MRTP for IQOS will be a major win for tobacco harm reduction and will

provide the tools and information smokers desperately need."

Lilly, Incyte's Baricitinib Meets Phase 2 Endpoints. Reuters (9/14) reports that Lilly and Incyte's baricitinib beat a placebo in a Phase 2 trial for eczema. Eli and Incyte presented the trial results at the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology annual meeting in Geneva and said they plan to launch a Phase 3 trial in atopic dermatitis later this year. The Phase 2 eczema trial "found that after 16 weeks, 61 percent of patients on the highest dose of baricitinib and a topical corticosteroid had at least a 50 percent reduction in symptoms, compared to 37 percent of patients treated with just a steroid."

Brief, Intense Exercise May Activate Molecular Pathways In The Body That **Boost Chemicals That** Suppress Growth Of Breast Cancer Cells, Research In Mice Suggests. Reuters (9/14, Boggs) reports that research suggests "brief exercise that's intense enough to get" an individual's "heart rate elevated and make" him or her "breathe heavily activates molecular pathways in the body that boost chemicals called catecholamines, such as epinephrine, which suppressed the growth of breast cancer cells." The study, done in mice, was published in Cancer Research.

San Diego Bleaching Streets To Combat Hepatitis A Outbreak. ABC World News Tonight (9/14, story 11, 0:15, Muir, 14.63M) reported the city of San Diego is leading public health initiatives in an effort to "help stem a Hepatitis A outbreak that's already claimed 16 lives in less than a year." The initiative includes cleaning crews "bleaching city streets" as the city battles the outbreak that has led to more than 400 confirmed cases.

Suffolk County Confirms First Two Human West Nile Virus Cases Of Year.

Newsday (NY) (9/14, Kitchen, 1.64M) reports Suffolk County, New York, health officials on Thursday confirmed that two Smithtown residents have tested positive for West Nile virus, marking the first human cases in the county this year. One resident "has fully recovered," while the other authorities said is "receiving supportive therapy at

local hospital." County health services

а

commissioner Dr. James Tomarken said authorities "never learned about" other possible cases "because they didn't seek medical attention or they sought attention but lab tests weren't ordered." The article notes CDC data show it has received reports of 2,038 cases of the virus since January 17.

Yolo County Officials Confirm Two "Severe" Cases Of West Nile Virus.

The Sacramento (CA) Bee (9/14, Sullivan, 349K) reports Yolo County, California, health officials have confirmed that two adult residents have been hospitalized with "severe" cases of West Nile virus. The cases are considered to be "neuroinvasive," a mark of their advanced state. Health officials "declined to identify the two areas of the county where the people had become infected" and "when they were admitted for treatment." The US CDC reports that nearly one in 50 people have severe symptoms related to West Nile virus cases.

Company Develops New 3-D Printing Technique To Produce Viable Human

Organs. Healthcare IT News (9/14, Siwicki, 5K) startup human tissue reports engineering company Prellis Biologics has developed a method to "create what it says are viable human organs using near instantaneous 3-D printing," a technique it "says it is solving the greatest obstacle to producing functional human tissue in the lab - the ability to print microvasculature." Where other companies have stumbled on the "roadblock" of creating microvasculature, Prellis has established a method to build tissue "scaffolding includes microvascular that structures," making it easier to print the blood vessel structures into larger tissue samples.

Google Imposes Restrictions On Ads Placed By Drug Rehabilitation

Centers. The New York Times (9/14, Corkery, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports Google recently established restrictions for advertisements placed by drug rehabilitation centers as more legal representatives and health advocates warn that online searches could be leading addicts to centers that are unable to help or could endanger them. Google spokeswoman Elisa Greene said the company "found a number of misleading experiences among rehabilitation treatment centers that led to our decision" to

cease selling ads related to searches for rehab facilities. The Times reports Google "may lift the restriction if it can find a way to weed out misleading advertisements."

Column: Hospital Administrators For Responsible Managing, Workplace Violence Preventing Against Nurses. Anna Almendrala writes for the Huffington Post (9/14, 5.74M) that nurses are continually faced with workplace violence caused by the patients they are there to help, although also are left victims by "hospital administrators who have the ability to gather data on the incidents, enforce strict zero-tolerance policies against violence and create environments that discourage assaults," but largely have not done so. This "is a problem for nurses ... as well as the industry as a whole," and potentially could lead to an even steeper decline in the number of employees comprising the already dwindling national nursing workforce. Almendrala calls for more legislative mandates to encourage hospital administrators to track and prevent incidents of violence, and discusses expert recommendations on training hospital employees on how to address violence.

Allergan Tribal Patent Delves Into Unexplored Legal Terrain. Reuters (9/14, Wolfe) reports legal experts commenting on Allergan's transfer of its Restasis patent to the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe say the deal is breaking into new legal territory. Under contention is the tribe's use of sovereign immunity, which Allergan says places the patents outside of the Patent Trial and Appeal Board's authority. Per some legal scholars, there is no current precedent for either Allergan or competitors that have challenged the legality of its deal due to the agreement's anomalous nature.

Gardner Signs On To Support Medical Marijuana Research Bill. The Denver Post (9/14, Paul, 817K) reports Sen. Cory Gardner (R-CO) has voiced support for a bipartisan bill that aims to "ease the way for medical marijuana research that he hopes will be a big positive for Colorado." Sponsored by Sens. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Brian Schatz (D-HI) and co-sponsored by Gardner, the legislation would encourage research on medical marijuana "by streamlining the registration process and mak[ing] more pot

available for the commercial production of any cannabis-derived Food and Drug Administration-approved drugs." The legislation also would require the National Institute on Drug Abuse to establish and publish recommendations on growing and producing marijuana for research purposes.

Study: Bacteria Could Protect Tumors From Anticancer Drugs. The Atlantic (9/14, Yong, 1.64M) reports on a study showing that some of the tens of trillions of bacteria and microscopic organisms in the human body can "shield tumors from anticancer drugs." The researchers found that an enzyme called CDD in a bacterium could dull the efficacy of a cancer drug, gemcitabine, for pancreatic cancer. Ravid Straussman of the Weizmann Institute of Science. one of the co-authors, said, "It would be naïve to think that antibiotics would cure these patients." The Atlantic says the research suggests that one solution might be to "block the CDD enzyme, and stop the bacteria from neutralizing gemcitabine."

GLOBAL HEALTH

Study Finds Poor Diets, Tobacco, **Mental Disorders Are Leading Causes** Of III Health Around The World. Reuters (9/14, Kelland) reports a study published in The Lancet called "The Global Burden of Disease" found that heart disease and tobacco-related illnesses were on par with conflict and violence as causes of death around the world in 2016, "while poor diets and mental disorders caused people the greatest ill health." According to Christopher Murray, director of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington, obesity, conflict, and mental illness represent a "triad of troubles" that are "emerging as a 'stubborn and persistent barrier to active and vigorous lifestyles."

Health Officials Halt Blood Donations In Parts Of Rome Amid Chikungunya

Outbreak. Reuters (9/14, Balmer) reports an outbreak of the "mosquito-borne illness Chikungunya" has caused health officials to "suspend blood donations" in affected areas of Rome. Reuters says authorities have detected the virus in "at least 17 people in southeastern Rome...since the end of August." The blood

donation "ban covers some 1.2 million residents." Chikungunya "is not deadly, but there is no vaccine," Reuters adds.

EU Agency Gives Positive Opinion To GlaxoSmithKline's Inhaler. Reuters (9/15, Nair) reports GlaxoSmithKline announced on Friday that a European Medicines Agency's (EMA) Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) recommended company's three-in-one inhaled lung drug which combines fluticasone furoate, umeclidinium, and vilanterol. The drug uses the three different mechanisms to "help open airways of patients with severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)." Reuters also discusses GSK's blockbuster drug Advair that has so far avoided generic competition in the US because none of its rivals have won approval for an equivalent form of the drug.

Lung Cancer Cases In Northern Ireland "Increase By A Third," Says Report. BBC News (UK) (9/15, Connolly, 1.61M) reports that a Queen's University in Belfast and Northern Ireland Cancer Registry Study found that lung cancer cases have increased by a third over an eight-year period, 2006 to 2014. The increase was more than four times as great among women as it was in men, 55 percent to 12 percent. Dr. Anna Gavin, the author of the report, attributed the increase in part to people living longer.

China Asserts Reformed lt Has Controversial Organ **Transplant** System Through Voluntary Online Registry. The Washington Post (9/14, Denyer, 10.38M) reports the Chinese government asserts its once highly-criticized organ transplant system which often involved organs harvested from unwilling prisoners to be sold to the highest bidders - has reformed, thanks in large part to health official Huang Jiefu, who "built a register of voluntary donors, overcoming both entrenched interests that profited from the old ways" and cultural attitudes against organ donation. The registry uses an app which connects to "a computerized database [that] matches donors with compatible potential recipients, alerting doctors by text message as soon as organs become available." However, some international critics still insist unethical organ harvesting

persists in some sanctioned instances in the country.

Malaysia Becomes First Country To Issue A License To Make Generic Versions Of Sofosbuvir. STAT (9/14, Silverman, 43K) reports that Malaysia "will follow through on plans to issue a license to generic companies to make a version" of Gilead Sciences' Sovaldi (sofosbuvir). This will make it the "first country to take such a step amid growing global pushback over the cost of the groundbreaking medicine."

NATIONAL NEWS

As Right Lashes Out, Trump Says **DACA Deal Would Include "Massive** Border Controls." Media coverage of the DACA talks between the President and Democratic leaders Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer highlighted the seeming sense of anger and betrayal on the part of some on the right. The contours of the emerging agreement reportedly include a legislative fix to the DREAMers' legal status and beefed-up border security - but not a border wall. The Hill (9/14, Easley, 1.68M), for described Trump's supporters as example. "apoplectic and lashing out at 'Amnesty Don," the New York Times (9/14, Peters, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) says he "came under withering attack...from some of his strongest supporters, who were outraged and unforgiving," and the Washington Post (9/14, Costa, 10.38M) "staunch conservative allies...have that his erupted in anger and incredulity." Rep. Steve King "issued a dramatic warning to the president after he scrolled through news reports," declaring Trump's base "blown up, destroyed, irreparable, and disillusioned beyond repair." Townhall (9/14, Pavlich, 523K) noted that King told CNN, "The base will leave him. They can't support him anymore." Ann Coulter, meanwhile, tweeted, "At this point, who doesn't want Trump impeached?" USA Today (9/14, Estepa, 8.62M) reports that she later added, "If we're not getting a wall, I'd prefer President Pence."

The President defended his actions yesterday, starting with three morning tweets. Trump wrote, "No deal was made last night on DACA. Massive border security would have to be agreed to in exchange for consent. Would be

subject to vote." He also <u>said</u> "the WALL, which is already under construction in the form of new renovation of old and existing fences and walls, will continue to be built." Trump <u>added</u>, "Does anybody really want to throw out good, educated and accomplished young people who have jobs, some serving in the military? Really!....." White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said on <u>Fox News' Fox & Friends</u> (9/14, 1.9M), "The President has been very clear in what his position is. He wants to get a deal done. He wants to do that with DACA, but also to include massive border security and interior enforcements. That's what he's tweeted this morning. That was the message he relayed last night."

The Los Angeles Times (9/14, Mascaro, Bennett, Lauter, 4.49M) reports Trump further "defended his negotiations with Democratic leaders on immigration" later yesterday, telling reporters en route to Florida, "We're working on a plan – subject to getting massive border controls. We're working on a plan for DACA." The CBS Evening News (9/14, lead story, 3:25, Cordes, 11.17M) showed Trump saying, "There was no deal. They didn't say they had a deal." Roll Call (9/14, Bennett, 134K) noted that White House deputy press secretary Lindsay Walters also told reporters. "There was no deal made."

On the other hand, the AP (9/14, Werner, Colvin) guotes Trump as saying "he was 'fairly close' to a deal with congressional leaders." He added that "his promised wall along the US-Mexico border would 'come later,' but would need to happen soon." In fact, "after he landed in Florida, he declared repeatedly, 'If we don't have a wall, we're doing nothing." The CBS Evening News (9/14, lead story, 3:25, Cordes, 11.17M) reported that later Thursday, Trump "was back to criticizing the Democrats about the wall," telling reporters, "If the Democrats aren't going to approve it, then we're not going to do what they want." The Wall Street Journal (9/14, Meckler, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) runs a story under the headline Democrats Haggle On Contours Of A 'Dreamers' Deal."

ABC World News Tonight (9/14, story 4, 2:25, Vega, 14.63M) showed Trump saying, "We're talking about taking care of people, people that were brought here, people that have done a good job and were not brought here of their own volition. ... We're not looking at citizenship, we're not looking at amnesty. We're looking at allowing

people to stay here." Breitbart (9/14, Spiering, 2.42M) reported that "on Air Force One, however, a White House spokesperson confirmed that 'legal citizenship over a period of time' for DACA recipients would likely be part of a deal." Pelosi, moreover, "insisted that the plan would offer them a 'path to citizenship." Politico (9/14, Nussbaum, 3.6M), meanwhile, reports "the White House is against 'amnesty,' but won't say what that means," and The Hill (9/14, Fabian, 1.68M) described Trump as "trying to soothe his base, which is incensed."

Eamon Javers said on CNBC's Closing Bell (9/14, 156K), "That's something that we haven't really seen much of in Washington since the Clinton Administration, but it looks like...Trump is trying a little triangulation here as well." The Washington Times (9/14, Dinan, 541K) reports. however, that the President also said yesterday that "GOP leaders in Congress are 'very much on board' the deal he's working with...Schumer and...Pelosi." Washington Post The Viebeck, O'Keefe, Debonis, 10.38M) reports Speaker Ryan dismissed "the potential deal...as little more than a preliminary discussion," but also "agreed in broad terms with the president's goal of protecting hundreds of thousands undocumented immigrants while postponing talk of a border wall but toughening US border security in other ways."

Sen. Bill Cassidy said on MSNBC's Morning Joe (9/14, 983K), "The American people obviously want the border security. But if you look at polls, the American people want something done with DACA in a way which doesn't kick out a lot of kids who came here when they were young. So, I think the President is probably looking at the polls and realizes the sweet spot is to work out that compromise. So, I think that's what the President seems to be aiming for."

Sen. James Lankford was asked on CNN's The Lead (9/14, 927K) if he could support a deal with Democrats on Dreamers that does not include funding for a border wall. Lankford said, "I would actually. ... I've been clear for years with people that the Dream Act is not going to pass, but it doesn't solve the problem to ignore the issue on the kids that are on DACA. ... As far as the issue of not having a border wall, that doesn't surprise me, quite frankly. ... The Department of Homeland Security has yet to explain to the" Appropriations and Homeland Security committees "exactly what the wall would look like,

where they would put it exactly, how it'd be constructed, the final cost of it. All of those things are still up in the air. Until they can resolve those things, we shouldn't have a border wall funding issue. ... We're not ready for that at this point. We are ready to be able to deal with DACA."

Rep. Ted Yoho said on CNN's Situation Room (9/14, 836K), "I don't think any deal's been cut. I think there was talks. You can't fix a problem if we don't talk about it, but I can tell you one thing is border security has to happen. Enforcement of laws has to happen before you'll see this go anywhere. But to talk about it and bring it out on the table I think is a winner for all of America."

Rep. Louie Gohmert said on Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight (9/14, 2.46M), "I refuse to talk about legalizing anybody until that border is secure. There are places we have got to have a wall, we've got to secure it, and once that is done, then we'll talk about this other stuff."

McClatchy (9/14, Glueck, 67K) describes Trump as "hedging on a border wall" and "threatening to betray core campaign promises in the process," though "according to the GOP base, this is all the fault of the Republican-controlled Congress." Along those lines, Joe Scarborough, in the Washington Post (9/14, 10.38M), calls King's comments yesterday "a primal scream" and mocks "poor Ann Coulter," but adds that "Hannity, Bannon and King are about to learn the same lesson that Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, Ted Cruz, Hillary Clinton, Jeff Zucker, Mika Brzezinski and I discovered in 2016: With Trump, it is never over. His base will stick with him no matter what."

Breitbart (9/14, Poor, 2.42M) noted that Rush Limbaugh did not join the choir of conservative criticism of Trump. Instead he said, "I'm asking myself: Would Trump really do that? Is he that...? Fill in the blank. But a lot of people do think it, a lot of people did think it, and right there pushing that narrative is the Drive-By Media – and certain Republicans are helping that narrative be pushed."

Rep. Tim Ryan said on Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight (9/14, 2.46M), "These are kids. These are kids who came here with family members. They did nothing wrong, and we are trying to solve a problem. Of course we want to talk about jobs, but this is an immediate crisis that, quite frankly, the President created. He could have handled this in a much better way of just saying, let's figure out if he wants to go through the legislative process to formalize this. We could

have done that without all the drama. But here we are."

Rep. Adriano Espaillat said on CNN's Anderson Cooper 360 (9/14, 1.12M) that the President "doesn't have to send it back to Congress. In fact, in Congress, we've got several pieces of legislation that takes care of the problem. We have the DREAM Act that is sponsored by Congresswomen Lucille Roybal-Allard and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, a bipartisan piece of legislation that seems to have the provisions in it that would resolve this problem. ... All he needs to do is a hop, skip, and a jump to the Capitol. Let's roll up our sleeves and go over the provisions in the bill. Let's see what's good and what's bad and make sure we pass it."

"Sources": House GOP Leaders Want Wall As Part Of DACA Deal. Politico (9/14, Bade, 3.6M) reports that according to "sources close to leadership...House Republicans plan to ask Trump to push for the wall as part of any DACA fix."

Meadows Tells Conservatives Not To Worry, Says Group "Working Very Closely" With White House. USA Today (9/14, Collins, 8.62M) reports Rep. Mark Meadows, chairman of the hard-line House Freedom Caucus, "says conservatives should not be concerned about reports...Trump has struck an immigration deal with Democrats, because the Freedom Caucus is taking the lead in drafting the bill." Meadows "downplayed talk of a deal Thursday, because he said members of his caucus are working in conjunction with the White House to get conservative legislative proposals drafted." Meadows told USA Today, "We're working very closely with the administration and conservative members of Congress...on how to address this (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) issue."

In fact, Politico (9/14, Cheney, Hesson, 3.6M) says "many conservatives on Capitol Hill made clear this week that there is, in fact, a window for the president to win buy-in from the right for a deal that would protect some undocumented immigrants...in stepped-up exchange for immigration enforcement measures." According to "interviews with more than a dozen conservative lawmakers...many envision a deal much like the one Trump and Democratic leaders purportedly reached." Politico adds that "the real test will be what kind of border security measures Democrats are willing to stomach, and whether the right will insist on a border wall despite Trump's decision to put it off."

Pelosi To Democratic Whips: "We Made A Deal To Make A Deal." Politico (9/14, Schor, Caygle, 3.6M) reports that Pelosi told "House Democratic whips that despite 'some misunderstandings in the press about a deal, we made a deal to make a deal. We made a deal to go forward."

House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer said on MSNBC's Morning Joe (9/14, 983K), "My understanding, I wouldn't call it a deal. What I would say is a plan to get to a deal. I think it was very clear that the President understood and there was an agreement that the Dreamer Act would be the substance of whatever agreement is ultimately reached and also what was reached was that security, enhanced security at the border would be part of whatever program was ultimately agreed to."

Pelosi: "I Do Trust The President Is Sincere." Reuters (9/14) reports that Pelosi also said yesterday "she trusted...Trump's sincerity in working to protect so-called Dreamers." Pelosi told reporters, "When we're talking about this legislation to protect the Dreamers, yes I do trust that the president is sincere in understanding that the public supports that overwhelmingly, the public supports not sending these young people back."

Schumer On Hot Mic: "He Likes Us" Or "Likes Me Anyway." Roll Call (9/14, McKinless, 134K) reported that "the Senate chamber microphones picked up...Schumer commenting on his relationship with...Trump Thursday morning." Said Schumer, "He likes us. ... He likes me anyway." Politico (9/14, Nelson, 3.6M) says "it was not clear about whom Schumer was speaking."

Sources: Trump Has Difficulty Speaking To McConnell, Has Better Rapport With Schumer And Pelosi. Politico (9/14, Bade, Dawsey, 3.6M) reports that "in recent weeks, Trump has complained in private that it's difficult to have any sort of relationship - or even make small talk - with...McConnell," and has "told staff that he finds...Ryan, whom he's dubbed a 'boy scout,' dry as well, but the two have some rapport." A "senior administration official" said "the only Republican in leadership with whom Trump has a personal connection is House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy." Politico adds that "by Trump can relate to Democratic contrast, leaders...Schumer and...Pelosi," and "wants to keep meeting with them." A "White House source"



tells Politico, "Schumer just talks to him. You get Mitch and Paul in here, and they're trying to explain this or that, and there is no personal connection."

Breitbart: "Amnesty Don" Number One Trend In DC On Twitter. Breitbart (9/13, Binder, 2.42M) indicated, in fact, that "Amnesty Don' peaked at the number one trend in Washington, D.C. on Twitter, the social media outlet the President is most known for using." Breitbart (9/14, Moons, 2.42M) also runs a series of pieces highly critical of Trump, including one titled "9 Family Members Of Americans Killed By Illegal Aliens Respond To Possible DACA Deal With Democrats."

Another <u>Breitbart</u> (9/14, Munro, 2.42M), titled "Trump Voters Throw MAGA Hats into Twitter Bonfire," warns the President that "the hat-burning may presage a huge demoralization among Trump's loyal followers, and cause his support to drop down to the basement levels achieved by President George W. Bush when he pushed for an amnesty in 2006 and 2007."

Hispanic Lawmakers, *Immigration* Activists Upset At Pelosi And Schumer. Politico (9/14, Schor, Caygle, 3.6M) reports "Democratic leaders are facing fresh trouble with their left flank after cutting their latest deal with President Donald Trump to protect Dreamers." Politico adds that "Hispanic lawmakers were blindsided the Wednesday night bν announcement from" Pelosi and Schumer "that they'd support legislation to help the nearly 700,000 undocumented immigrants in exchange for an unspecified boost in border security," and "immigration activists were frustrated to see Democrats claim victory only days after calling for a stand-alone vote on a path to citizenship for Dreamers." Pelosi "sought to assuage her caucus" concerns Thursday morning."

WPost, USA Today, WSJournal Among Those Defending Trump. The Washington Post (9/14, 10.38M) editorializes that it "doesn't often agree with...Trump, but we're on board with his observation Americans that most oppose deportation for 'dreamers," and believe he is "right to ratchet up the pressure on Congress to extend" DREAMers "the protections he is set to withdraw." Democrats "should reciprocate in good faith by providing new funding for border security." USA Today (9/14, 8.62M) editorializes on the "fierce backlash from conservatives, as opposition from the far left, where anything other

than resistance to Trump is considered treasonous." Yet it also concludes that "assuming a deal gets done, it will provide something for both sides."

In an editorial, meanwhile, the <u>Wall Street</u> <u>Journal</u> (9/14, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) urges Trump to dismiss the criticism from some on the right, and predicts those same critics will be soon in his corner. To the Journal, an agreement on DACA would be a major accomplishment for the President.

Jim Acosta said on CNN's The Lead (9/14, 927K), "The President said he is getting close to a deal to help those Dreamers, but he did warn talking to reporters on Air Force One he's going to have to start working with Democrats if he's not getting enough cooperation from Republicans, and that capped a day of confusion for the White House as the President was being contradicted by his aides and vice versa all day long on the subject of immigration."

Juan Williams said on Fox News' Special Report (9/14, 1.88M), "Steve King, the Iowa congressman, said basically the President risks blowing up his base as this point. You think about that base...it's about 35, 40 percent. You think about the high retention of Republican support for the President. If that starts to deteriorate, if you get the Ann Coulter voices, the right wing talk radio voices pulling away from this President, that could crater what is not a high level of support for him in that base."

Tucker Carlson said on Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight (9/14, 2.46M), "It would be a massive amnesty, maybe the biggest ever granted in American history. This is thrilling news for Democrats and for open borders advocates everywhere. In return for this concession, the President receives nothing, no reduction in overall immigration totals, no tightened restriction on foreign workers who take jobs from Americans, no E-Verify to prevent illegal immigrants from working under the table, no end to chain migration. The President isn't even getting a border wall, though he insisted he will somehow get one later, possibly."

Hannity: Schumer And Pelosi Will "Stab The President In The Back." Sean Hannity said in his opening monologue on Fox News' Hannity (9/14, 2.58M) that Schumer and Pelosi are essentially claiming that "the Democrats get everything they want, they get DACA and the President doesn't get his wall. It is the one thing

everybody needs to understand about Schumer and Pelosi. They don't like this President. They can't stand him. They want the President to fail and they certainly don't have his best interests at heart or in mind. Schumer and Pelosi only care about scoring cheap political points because they want to gain seats in 2018. ... As soon as it doesn't serve them politically, I can promise you, Chuck Schumer, Nancy Pelosi, they are going to turn around and stab the President in the back. That's a fact."

NBC News Analysis: "No Formal Plan" To Build Border Wall, "Obstacles Piling Up." NBC Nightly News (9/14, story 4, 2:05, Alexander, 16.61M) reported that "eight months into his presidency, there's no formal plan for building the kind of wall the President's been touting for two years. ... NBC has learned the study...Trump ordered in January on how to fully secure the border yet to be finalized." Moreover, "the obstacles are piling up," with "many construction firms fearing political retaliation are shying away from what typically would be a highly sought after and lucrative contract." Moreover, there is, NBC continued, "a wall of opposition" to "one of the President's top priorities."

Trump Meets With Irma Survivors, Praises Federal And State Response.

The President visited Southwest Florida vesterday to meet with Hurricane Irma survivors. The trip sparked largely favorable coverage, particularly on Florida print outlets and local TV newscasts. Encapsulating the tone of the reporting across much of the media spectrum, Aaron Blake writes in the Washington Post (9/14, 10.38M) the that visuals from the trip show "a guy who is actually pretty adept at pressing the flesh with notnecessarily-Trump-supporters and doing small-talk thing. These are all good images for the White House." A number of reports, however, take a more critical tone when addressing Trump's encouragement to Gov. Rick Scott to challenge Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson in next year's elections. The CBS Evening News (9/14, story 3, 1:35, Evans, 11.17M), for example, said Trump "couldn't resist injecting a little politics," the AP (9/14, Lucey, Thomas) that he "couldn't resist injecting a political flavor into his visit," and the Los Angeles Times (9/14, Lee, McDonnell, 4.49M) that he "raised some eyebrows by injecting politics into Thursday's visit."

As the Sunshine State (FL) News (9/14, Smith) notes, the President "thanked...Scott for his work, saying he's doing an 'incredible' job" and adding, "I hope this man right here, Rick Scott, runs for the Senate." Scott "returned the compliment, praising the president half a dozen times during his four-minute remarks for his support even while Irma was thousands of miles away." The New York Times (9/14, Sullivan, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) says "Scott's compliment was notable, as the federal government's response to hurricanes is regularly measured against its botched efforts after Hurricane Katrina hit Louisiana in 2005." Politico (9/14, McCaskill, 3.6M) reports Scott "has publicly said he is weighing a Senate run, but he has insisted that he feels little pressure to make an early decision."

The Naples (FL) Daily News (9/14, Stanley, 142K), meanwhile, reports that in Naples, Trump "handed out half-sandwiches and bananas with the first lady, vice president and...Scott," and "met with a handful of residents who sat waiting on front lawns of the mobile home community, with punched out windows, collapsed porches and wrecked carports." In Fort Myers, the President "thanked the Marines, Navy, Army, National Guard, Federal Emergency Management Administration and everyone who helped keep lives safe during the hurricane."

WTVJ-TV Miami (9/14, 6:16 p.m. EDT, 30K) described the President as "consoler in chief, hugging and handshaking with folks clobbered by the fist of Hurricane Irma," and WFTX-TV Fort Myers, FL (9/14, 6:05 p.m. EDT, 16K) reported "people" say that "even though they've lost everything, they are encouraged by some personal attention from the White House." WTXL-TV Tallahassee, FL (9/14, 6:03 p.m. EDT, 10K) showed Trump saying, "The job that everybody has done is incredible. I just want to thank everybody, the first responders. We've seen the devastation." WPEC-TV West Palm Beach, FL (9/14, 5:09 p.m. ET, 34K), meanwhile, showed Vice President Pence saying, "We are with you today. We are going to be with you tomorrow, and we are going to be with you until Florida rebuilds bigger and better than ever before."

Upon his arrival in Florida, <u>USA Today</u> (9/14, Jackson, 8.62M) reports, Trump spoke "in front of a Coast Guard helicopter at Southwest Florida International Airport" to thank "first responders and other officials working to rescue stranded



residents, restore utilities and ensure public safety – even thanking the media for keeping people informed."

Reporting on Trump's Naples stop, the CBS Evening News (9/14, story 3, 1:35, Evans, 11.17M) showed a person in the crowd telling the President, "Where was Obama in the last hurricane? He was playing golf." Trump replied, "Was this a good vote?" The unidentified speaker responded, "Yes." Trump was shown saying, "He said best vote of his life." ABC World News Tonight (9/14, story 5, 0:25, Muir, 14.63M), meanwhile, only mentioned that Trump was in Florida "surveying the damage from...Irma" as the preface of a report on the path of Hurricane Jose. and NBC Nightly News (9/14, story 4, 2:05, Alexander, 16.61M) did the same at the tail end of a story that concluded Trump is struggling to fulfill his campaign promises.

Jim Acosta said on CNN's Situation Room (9/14, 979K) that Trump "did come face to face with some storm victims," and showed him saying, "We love the people of Florida. And they went through something I guess the likes that nobody's ever seen before. They've never seen a category like this coming. Because it came in really at a five. All you have to do is look what happened in the Keys. We love these people and we're going to be back and we're going to help and the job that everybody has done in terms of first responders and everybody has been incredible."

The AP (9/14, Lucey, Thomas) describes Trump as "brimming with enthusiasm for the state and federal response effort," and says he and the First Lady "encountered piles of broken siding and soggy furniture heaped on front porches, and residents who were happy to get a presidential visit." Said Trump, "We are there for you 100 percent. ... I'll be back here numerous times. This is a state that I know very well." NPR (9/14, Kelly, 2.4M) said that "the surrounding area was littered with downed trees and ripped-out signs; mobile homes were totaled; and tarps covered roofs, according to pool reports. Gas stations along the way advertised that they didn't have fuel."

The New York Times (9/14, Sullivan, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) similarly indicates that in his "third visit to storm-ravaged parts of the United States in the past few weeks after two major hurricanes," the President "again praised the federal government's performance," saying, "I think we're doing a good job in Florida." The Washington Times (9/14, Miller, 541K) notes

he "commended" both Scott and the "fantastic" job FEMA "had done preparing and responding to the massive hurricane." Reuters (9/14, Oliphant) reports Trump also had praise for "first responders and local officials for their handling of the storm." Said Trump, "When you think of the incredible power of that storm, and while people unfortunately passed, it was such a small number. ... People thought thousands and thousands of people may have their lives ended and the number is a very small number, which is a great tribute to you." The Wall Street Journal (9/14, Ballhaus, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) runs a similar report.

The New York Post (9/14, Steinbuch, 4.31M) reports that "before leaving the White House on Thursday morning, Trump said that 'historically there's never been anything like this." He added, "But the United States Coast Guard, FEMA, working along with Gov. Scott, they've really done an amazing job. ... We have the largest assemblage of human beings ever in one area for power, and rapidly it's being turned on."

A couple of reports focused on Trump's offhand comments yesterday. Under the headline "Donald Trump Really Can't Stop Talking About His Hands," Vanity Fair (9/14, Weaver, 2.7M) reported that "Trump has been traveling to the southern parts of the country to respond to the first natural disasters of his presidency, or in his case, to talk about himself." When "he prepared to put on a pair of latex gloves while helping with Harvey relief earlier this month, Trump claimed 'his hands were too big' for the gloves," and "in a clear move to recycle his bit, he said the same thing while helping with Irma relief in Florida on Thursday." Business Insider (9/14, Abadi, 3.83M) ran a similar report.

Yoho Also Praises Recovery Effort. Rep. Ted Yoho said on CNN's Situation Room (9/14, 836K) that his district is "recovering. There's a stellar effort by everybody on the ground and I'm happy to report that all six of the counties in District 3 of north-central Florida got individual assistance where people can qualify for \$33,000 of assistance, public assistance and hazard assistance." Yoho added, "We have got 21,000 MREs coming in later on today and 10,000 gallons of water. Power is being put up. The important thing is that the FEMA money is here to help alleviate hazard release, picking up trash and debris. We're happy with the progression and I think the greatest thing I saw was people coming

together as Americans, as we always do in tough times like this to make a tough situation better."

Trump To View Irma Relief Efforts In Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands. McClatchy (9/14, Daugherty, 67K) reports that the President will visit Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands "to view Hurricane Irma relief efforts first hand," Puerto Rican Gov. Ricardo Rosselló said Thursday. Rosselló "has been in regular communication with the White House over the past week and said that White House officials have pledged to support Puerto Rico's needs." According to McClatchy, Puerto Rico "sustained an estimated \$1 billion in damage from Irma, up from an initial estimate of \$600 million," and that "will play a role when Congress discusses an Irma relief package, which will cost billions of dollars after Irma moved through the Keys and along Florida's Gulf Coast."

Trump Dismisses Impact Of Climate Change On Hurricanes Harvey, Irma. The Hill (9/14, Henry, 1.68M) reports that following his visit to Florida, Trump "dismissed the impact of climate change on Hurricanes Harvey and Irma," telling reporters on Air Force One, "We've had bigger storms," and "ignor[ing] a question about his views on climate change, according to reporters traveling with him."

Jim Acosta said on CNN's Situation Room (9/14, 979K) that Trump said "he is not changing his mind on the issue," though "the scientific community believes that there is a very strong likelihood that there is a connection between climate change and...these violent storms that we're seeing not only here in the United States, but around the world. ... This remains a tough issue for this White House where you have the President of the United States essentially saying hasn't changed his mind on the issue of climate change. Apparently, he still believes it's a hoax, while officials inside the Administration agree climate change is happening. They just don't know what to do about it, and they don't know how to change the President's opinion on it."

SBA Providing Low-Interest Disaster Loans To Irma Victims. The <u>Jacksonville</u> (FL) Daily Record (9/14, 346) reports that the state of Florida "is asking businesses that suffered damage from Hurricane Irma to report it to the Florida Virtual Business Emergency Operations Center." The information "will be shared among state and local agencies providing disaster relief

for businesses." the Daily Record adds that "lowinterest disaster loans also are available from the U.S. Small Business Administration to individuals, businesses and nonprofit organizations. The loans can be used for loss and damages not fully covered by insurance."

Scott Activates Loan Program To Aid Small Businesses Impacted By Irma. The Miami Herald (9/14, Harris, 701K) reported on its love blog that Gov. Rick Scott has "activated a loan program designed to support small businesses impacted by Hurricane Irma." Under the bridge loan program, small businesses that sustained physical or economic damage in the storm can receive "interest-free, short-term loans." Scott approved "up to \$10 million for the program, which is managed by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity."

Irma's Agricultural Cost Estimated In The Billions. The Florida Farm Bureau said Thursday that "informal estimates suggest" the total agricultural cost of Hurricane Irma "will be in the billions," the Palm Beach (FL) Post (9/14, Salisbury, 273K) reports. Wind and rain from the storm "caused widespread destruction of crops, buildings, fencing and other property," with the most severe damage occurring in Southwest Florida.

Florida Facing Shortage Of Insurance Adjusters. The Wall Street Journal (9/14, Scism, Friedman, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that a shortage of insurance adjusters could slow rebuilding efforts in the state. While insurers are rushing to get more adjusters to the state, the Journal says there is a bidding war for those currently available, with some homeowners raising fees paid to adjusters by 30 percent.

FPL Promises To Have Power On By Sunday On Florida's East Coast. The Miami Herald (9/14, Rodriguez, 701K) reports that Florida Power & Light Co. "has doubled-down on its promise to have the electricity up and running for all homes and businesses on the state's east coast by the end of Sunday Sept. 17." The west coast, which sustained the greatest damage, "will be back online by Friday Sept. 22." FPL spokesman Bryan Garner said during a press conference Thursday morning that "FPL had



restored service to 70 percent of its three million South Florida customers."

Focus In Florida Keys Turns To Relief. Manuel Bojorquez reported on the CBS Evening News (9/14, story 7, 1:50, Mason, 11.17M) that the focus in the Florida Keys has turned to relief as Monroe County officials "have checked on all homes in the hardest hit areas and have found no additional victims." While water and food are "reaching those who stayed behind," running water may not be restored for days. In addition, "power and cell service are fully restored." Bojorquez added that because conditions "are still considered hazardous...it could be days before all residents of the Keys are allowed back in."

Mobile Home Community Takes "Horrific Hit." The Fort Myers (FL) News-Press (9/14, Williams, 160K) reports that "Alva's Oak Park mobile home community took a horrific hit from the storm," and residents say "no county workers or other officials had yet come to survey the damage at their isolated enclave."

Raw Sewage Backing Up On Lawns In Lee County, Florida. The Fort Myers (FL) News-Press (9/14, Dulaney, 160K) reports that in neighborhoods across Lee County, Florida, "raw sewage is backing up into residents' driveways and into their yards in the wake of Hurricane Irma." Fort Myers Public Works Director Richard Moulton said 32 lift stations, which "are used to collect sewage from a defined area — anywhere between 10 and 100 homes — and pump it to the city's wastewater plant" are without power in the city.

VA Opens Beds To Nursing Home Residents Affected By Irma. The Miami Herald (9/14, Neal, 701K) reports that VA Secretary Shulkin announced Thursday that his agency "will open beds to non-Veteran nursing home residents affected by Hurricane Irma.' Shulkin's move comes in the wake of "Wednesday's death of eight residents of a Hollywood nursing home steaming without air conditioning." Shulkin said, "We will continue to look for ways to relieve the hardship this powerful storm has caused. ... Much of the heavy-lifting to recover from the hurricane is still to come and our leaders and staff are determined to find as many ways as we can for VA to help in the response."

Police Obtain Search Warrant For Nursing Home Where Residents Died. Meanwhile, police in Hollywood Florida have obtained a search warrant "and can begin combing for evidence" in The Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills, where the eight senior citizens died, the South Florida Sun Sentinel (9/14, McMahon, Bryan, 530K) reports. While officials "are still figuring out what happened when and said they do not want to speculate or prematurely release incorrect information," Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration "on Wednesday put an immediate stop on all admissions to the nursing home at the direction of Gov. Rick Scott."

ABC World News Tonight (9/14, story 2, 3:30, Muir, 14.63M) described "what really played out inside that nursing home." ABC added that nursing home administrators "tell us they are going to cooperate fully with this investigation to figure out what went wrong." The CBS Evening News (9/14, story 6, 2:15, Mason, 11.17M) and NBC Nightly News (9/14, story 2, 2:10, Holt, 16.61M) also reported on the investigation into what occurred at the nursing home.

The New York Times (9/14, Reisner, Fink, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that a new federal rule created after Hurricane Katrina "will require that nursing homes have 'alternate sources of energy to maintain temperatures to protect resident health and safety," but it "will not be enforced until November, and even then, some patient advocates are concerned that it does not go far enough." The rule "does not specifically require backup generators for air-conditioning systems," and in the wake of the deaths at the Florida nursing home, "some are questioning whether the rule should."

Irma's Death Toll Rises To 26. Naples (FL) Daily News (9/14, Sarkissian, 142K) reports that at least 26 deaths have been attributed to Hurricane Irma, marking "an increase from the 12 announced by Scott's office earlier this week." The Miami Herald (9/14, Klas, 701K) says "the number of casualties is destined to grow as the total confirmed by county medical examiners. and reported to the Department of Law Enforcement, does not include the eight elders who died this week when their Broward nursing home became an oven, or the eight reported dead in the Keys, when winds hacksawed through their islands."



Relief Supplies Flowing Into St. Maarten. On ABC World News Tonight (9/14, story 3, 1:25, Muir, 14.63M), David Wright reported on the "devastation in St. Maarten...and the urgent effort to get people out." Wright said that while "relief supplies are flowing in," recovery "is going to take some time." NBC Nightly News (9/14, story 5, 1:40, Holt, 16.61M) also reported on recovery efforts in the Caribbean.

Models Indicate Tropical Storm Jose Is Unlikely To Come Ashore. ABC World News Tonight (9/14, story 5, 0:25, Muir, 14.63M) reported that Tropical Storm Jose is currently "about 400 miles east of the Bahamas, and it could go back to being a hurricane by this weekend." The storm is "forecast to move northward with eight-foot waves and dangerous rip currents along the east coast." ABC added that all of the models agree that Jose "will likely not come ashore."

Officials Believe Hurricane Harvey Death Toll Is "At Least 82." The Washington Post (9/14, Moravec, 10.38M) reports that Texas officials said Thursday that the death toll from Hurricane Harvey is believed to be "at least 82 people," but "it could take weeks to determine the exact death toll." The Post says the number could have been significantly higher, "given the amount of flooding and that entire communities were cut off for days."

Harris County Flood District Seeking Funds For Harvey-Related Home **Buyouts.** A front-page story in the Washington Post (9/14, Whoriskey, Sullivan, 10.38M) reports that while the Houston suburb of Meverland "has long presented a facade of prosperity and permanence," after "major floods" in 2015, 2016 and this year form Hurricane Harvey, "the envy is dissipating, replaced by the once-unthinkable idea that swaths of Meverland ought to be abandoned and returned to nature." While "a retreat from a thriving neighborhood is a rarity in U.S. urban history," in Harvey's wake, "the notion is compelling enough in flood-prone communities that it has drawn support from leading planners in Houston." The Post adds that officials with the Harris County Flood Control District, which includes Houston, "announced last week that they are 'actively pursuing the funding necessary to proceed with Harvey-related home buyouts."

Trump Reiterates That There Were "Bad Dudes" On Both Sides In Charlottesville. NBC Nightly News (9/14, story 4, 2:05, Alexander, 16.61M) reported last night that "on the trip back from touring hurricane damage in Florida," the President "was asked about meeting with the Senate's only African-American Republican," Sen. Tim Scott, "and again brought up his controversial comments after Charlottesville that there were, in his words, 'bad dudes,' not just among the white supremacists but among the left-wing anti-fascist groups that came out to confront them." Politico (9/14, McCaskill, 3.6M) says Trump echoed "language that triggered a backlash against him last month," the New York Times (9/14, Landler, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) that he "thrust himself back into the racial storms of Charlottesville," and CNN (9/14, Collins, 33.59M) that he "maintained...his controversial position."

The Washington Examiner (9/14, Westwood, 465K) notes that the President said of his talk with Scott, "We had a great conversation. ... I think especially in light of the advent of Antifa, if you look at what's going on there. You have some pretty bad dudes on the other side also and essentially that's what I said." Added the President, "Now because of what's happened since then with Antifa. When you look at really what's happened since Charlottesville, a lot of people are saying and people have actually written, 'Gee, Trump may have a point.' I said there's some very bad people on the other side also. ... But we had a great conversation."

"Asked about Trump's latest remarks," Scott told Politico (9/14, McCaskill, 3.6M) that the President "is who he has been. ... I wanted to inform and educate a different perspective. I think we accomplished that. To assume that immediately thereafter that he's immediately going to have an epiphany is unrealistic." CNN (9/14, Collins, 33.59M) notes that in a statement, Scott also said, "Rome wasn't built in a day, and to expect the President's rhetoric to change based on one 30-minute conversation is unrealistic. ... Antifa is bad and should be condemned, yes, but the KKK has been killing and tormenting black Americans for centuries. There is no realistic comparison. Period."

Trump Signs Resolution Condemning Hatred, Bigotry, Racism. The Washington Times (9/14, Miller, 541K) reports the President "signed a resolution Thursday that condemned the

deadly white nationalist violence at а demonstration last month in Charlottesville, Virginia, saying he was pleased to sign it." The President said in his signing statement, "As Americans, we condemn the recent violence in Charlottesville and oppose hatred, bigotry, and racism in all forms. ... No matter the color of our skin or our ethnic heritage, we all live under the same laws, we all salute the same great flag, and we are all made by the same almighty God. ... We are a Nation founded on the truth that all of us are created equal. As one people, let us move forward to rediscover the bonds of love and loyalty that bring us together as Americans."

USA Today (9/14, Korte, 8.62M) says the signing "came just hours after he once again compared white supremacists, neo-Nazis and the KKK to the anti-fascist 'antifa' movement, repeating some of the very remarks that led Congress to pass the resolution in the first place." Politico (9/14, Lima, 3.6M) also reports Trump signed the resolution "despite his equivocating on the matter."

U-Va Will Spend Amount Equivalent To 1921 KKK Donation To Help Charlottesville Injured. The Washington Post (9/14, Svrluga, 10.38M) reports the University of Virginia has announced it "will help pay the medical expenses of people injured during clashes with white supremacists in Charlottesville last month, in an amount equivalent to money that was pledged to the university by the Ku Klux Klan in 1921." U-Va president Teresa A. Sullivan said the KKK's "\$1,000 pledge, if inflated to today's dollars, would be worth about \$12,400. With that number in mind, I have allocated \$12,500 from private sources to the 'Charlottesville Patient Support Fund."

Rohrabacher: Democrats Were Behind Charlottesville Rally That Ended In Violence. Writing for the San Francisco Chronicle (9/14, Garofoli, 3.31M), Joe Garofoli discusses a recent interview he conducted with Rep. Dana Rohrabacher. Garofoli says Rohrabacher thinks "that Democrats were behind last month's white nationalist riots in Charlottesville, Va. ... Under Rohrabacher's scenario, a former 'Hillary and Bernie supporter' got Civil War re-enactors to gather under the guise of protecting a Robert E. Lee statue there. 'It was a setup for these dumb Civil War re-enactors,' Rohrabacher said. 'It was left-wingers who were manipulating them in order to have this confrontation' and to 'put our president on the spot."

Berkelev Boosted Security, Offered Counseling To Students Ahead Of Speech By The Los Angeles Times (9/14, Ben Shapiro. Panzar, Oreskes, Watanabe, 4.49M) reported Thursday that "to see what free speech looks like in 2017 at the birthplace of the famed movement, consider the elaborate preparations underway for a talk Thursday by a conservative writer." Ben Shapiro, adds the Times, "isn't nearly as controversial as some right-wing speakers who have roiled the campus over the last year," yet "UC Berkeley has told students that counseling is available to those stressed by all the commotion." Moreover, "a large swath of the campus will be closed off, including the plaza where the free speech movement began in the 1960s." UC Berkeley chancellor Carol T. Christ "has said allowing these talks is essential, trumpeting the belief that the best response to hate speech is 'more speech' rather than trying to shut down others."

The Los Angeles Times (9/14, Panzar, Tchekmedvian, 4.49M) reports that as Shapiro spoke, "a large group of protesters marched around the campus amid intense security triggered by a recent series of violent clashes between far-left and far-right protesters." Ultimately, "authorities arrested at least three people for carrying banned weapons," as "before the event, police temporarily banned sticks, pipes, poles and anything else they said could be used to riot." The Times adds that "one of the three held, 20-year-old Hannah Benjamin, was also arrested on suspicion of battery on a police officer, Berkeley police said."

WPost A1: Antifa's Unifying Idea Is That Free Speech Secondary To "Squashing Fascism." On its front page, the Washington Post (9/14, A1, Miller, 10.38M) recalls the "the Aug. 27 protest in Berkeley" that led to "images broadcast across the country" showing how "more than 100 antifa activists leapt over barricades and stormed Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park, attacking a handful of...Trump supporters and right-wing activists." In DC, "authorities fear the far-left activists will strike again Saturday, when the Mall will host the 'Juggalo March' - a gathering of fans of the rap group Insane Clown Posse - and a pro-Trump event dubbed the Mother of All Rallies." The Post adds that "interviews with a dozen antifa activists show they

come from a variety of backgrounds and are only loosely affiliated. ... While they are all open to using violence, some embrace it – even glorify it." In fact, "what unites them is the belief that free speech is secondary to squashing fascism before it takes root in the United States."

Trump To Hold Conference With **Jewish Leaders.** The New York Times (9/14, Haberman, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports the President "will hold a conference call on Friday morning with Jewish leaders ahead of the High Holy Days, moving ahead with a standard White House event that several rabbinical groups have vowed to boycott." The Times adds that "issues related to the Jewish community have been problematic for the president throughout his presidency." For example, the Times cites "a statement from the White House on Holocaust Remembrance Day made no mention of the millions of Jews who were killed, instead focusing on 'all' who suffered," and "the president's statement that there were 'very fine people' among the white supremacists rallying in Charlottesville prompted an outcry."

NYTimes A1: Trump "Berated" Sessions After Appointment Mueller. Citina "current and administration officials and others briefed on the matter," the New York Times (9/14, A1, Schmidt, Haberman, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports on its front page, "Shortly after learning in May that a special counsel had been appointed to investigate links between his campaign associates and Russia, President Trump berated Attorney General Jeff Sessions in an Oval Office meeting and said the attorney general should resign." Trump, says the Times, "blamed the appointment of [Special Counsel Robert Mueller] on Mr. Sessions's decision to recuse himself from the Justice Department's Russia investigation." The Times adds that "accusing Mr. Sessions of 'disloyalty,' Mr. Trump unleashed a string of insults on his attorney general," who "told the president he would guit and sent a resignation letter to the White House." The Times adds that Sessions "would later tell associates that the demeaning way the president addressed him was the most humiliating experience in decades of public life."

Maggie Haberman of the New York Times said on CNN's The Lead (9/14, 927K) that the

President saw Sessions' decision to recuse himself from the Russia investigations as "form of a betrayal it seems. In an Oval Office meeting in May, as they were trying to pick a new FBI director, they learned that Robert Mueller had been appointed as special council and the President just unloaded on his attorney general called him an idiot, said he was one of the worst decisions he made, said he should resign. And Sessions, who got emotional during this, said he would. He left, ultimately produced a letter of resignation. The President then was talked out of accepting [it] by some aides. ... Their relationship has improved to some extent, but it's never going to be what it was. The degree of anger the President has at Jeff Sessions I think is never going to totally abate." CNN's Situation Room (9/14, 979K) also reported on the Times' story.

Cillizza: Sessions Incident Highlights Trump's "Volcanic Temper." Under the heading "The Volcanic Temper Of Donald Trump," Chris Cillizza – writing on the website of CNN (9/14, Cillizza, 33.59M) - highlighted the "stunning" report from the Times, then added, "This temper tantrum from Trump is not an isolated incident. Far from it." Cillizza cited several examples of what he said demonstrated Trump's temper, saving, for instance, that the President "fumed backstage before his Phoenix campaign rally last month as TV cameras showed a less-than-full arena. George Gigicos, who was handling the advance work for the event, was let go as a result of Trump's displeasure." Cillizza added that "Trump's temper is a feature, not a glitch."

USA Today Analysis: Congressional Panels In Russia Probe "Tripping Over

One Another." Under the headline "Congress Struggles To Figure Out Which Investigation Trumps The Others," USA Today Kelly, 8.62M) reports, "The three congressional committees investigating Russian interference in the 2016 election often overlap but rarely coordinate, creating a legal quagmire for witnesses and challenges for...Mueller as he conducts a separate criminal probe." USA Today says the panels "have been tripping over one another in recent months in the competition for witnesses and information. One of the most egregious examples - according to four congressional aides" - happened "in July when investigators for the House Intelligence Committee traveled to London to try to contact Christopher

Steele, the former British spy who compiled a dossier on Donald Trump and his alleged ties to the Russian government." GOP members of the panel "did not tell the committee's Democrats, Mueller, or the Senate Intelligence Committee that they were sending two staff investigators to London."

Stone To Appear Before House Intelligence Panel. The AP (9/14, Pace) reports that Roger Stone, a longtime confidante of Trump, "says he will appear before the House intelligence committee on Sept. 26." Stone "says the session is currently closed, though he asked previously for his appearance to be public. He says he's asking for the 'immediate release' of transcripts from his appearance so there will be 'no confusion or misinformation' about his appearance."

Politico (9/14, Cheney, 3.6M) reported that while Stone "has boasted of his connections to Wikileaks founder Julian Assange." he "has denied any improper contacts with Russians or their allies in the course of the 2016 campaign. But Democrats have pointed to his tweets in the summer of 2016 that seemed to presage the mass release of emails by Wikileaks as potential evidence of collusion between Trump associates and Russia." Stone "aroused suspicion in August last year when he claimed to have communicated Assange" "also with and acknowledged exchanging messages with Guccifer 2.0, a persona believed to be the front for Russia's operation to hack the Democratic National Committee." The Hill (9/14, Williams, 1.68M) quoted Stone as saying on Thursday, "I very much look forward to testifying and I am anxious to correct a number of the misstatements by committee members regarding my activities in 2016."

Gowdy Says White House Press Secretary Should Refer Criminal Claims To DOJ. The Washington Times (9/14, Persons, 541K) reports that during a Thursday appearance on Fox News, House Oversight Committee Chairman Rep. Trey Gowdy (R) said that White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders "should refer criminal allegations to the Department of Justice rather than talk about them with reporters. 'If it's that clean and clear I'm sure she's referred it to the Department of Justice," the South Carolina lawmaker said, "referring to Ms. Sanders' claim at the White House briefing Wednesday that it was 'pretty clean and clear' that former FBI Director James Comey broke the law by leaking internal

FBI memos he wrote after various meetings with President Trump." Gowdy later added, "Alleging criminal violations is very serious, which is why I don't do it. If you have evidence of a crime, instead of sharing it with a gaggle of reporters, share it with the people who can actually do something about it."

AP Analysis: Amid Mueller Investigation, GOP Attacks On Comey Intensify. The AP (9/14, Tucker) reports that GOP "attacks that accompanied the firing of...Comey have sharply intensified in the last two weeks, with broadsides delivered on Twitter, public statements and even from the White House podium." The AP says "has been repeatedly accused Comey delivering false testimony, of prematurely exonerating Hillary Clinton for her use of a private email server and of improperly leaking details about his private conversations with the president. The attacks, which come as Congress and federal investigators probe the circumstances of his dismissal, appear clearly designed to undercut the credibility of" Comey, "whose testimony and vivid first-person accounts loom as central to special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation."

White House Denies Seeking Anonymous Legal Donations, Despite Ethics Modification. The Washington Examiner (9/14, Nelson, 465K) reported that the White House "denies pushing to allow anonymous donor including lobbyists to fund lawyers for White House staff, but critics fear elimination of a one-sentence disclaimer may make it possible." The Examiner added, "The current concern centers on a long-ignored but never rescinded 1993 legal opinion that said donors to outside legal funds should be kept secret to ensure a recipient 'does not know who the paymasters are.' Since the mid-1990s, the Office of Government Ethics ignored this opinion and instead required legal defense funds to regularly disclosure donors." The Examiner said that then-OGE director Walter Shaub "in May ordered a disclaimer attached to the office's 1993 legal opinion, saying in all caps that it was invalid. After Shaub's resignation, the disclaimer was modified to say the opinion remains in effect."

Rohrabacher Yet To Talk With Trump About What He Learned At Meeting With Assange. The Los Angeles Times (9/14, Wire, 4.49M) reports that Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA) on Thursday said "he hasn't yet arranged a meeting with President Trump to discuss what he learned from WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange

about the theft of Democratic emails during the 2016 election." Rohrabacher told the Times, "The meeting has not been put on the calendar yet, but I have spoken to senior people at the White House about arranging a meeting. I have to believe it will happen, yes. It's an important issue." The Times adds that Rohrabacher last month "traveled to London to meet with Assange, who remains in asylum in the Ecuadorian embassy there. He said they discussed a potential presidential pardon in exchange for information on the theft of emails from the Democratic National Committee, which were published by WikiLeaks before the 2016 presidential election. Rohrabacher said in a statement that Assange 'emphatically stated that the Russians were not involved."

Writing for the San Francisco Chronicle (9/14, Garofoli, 3.31M), Joe Garofoli discusses a recent interview he conducted with Rohrabacher, in which the Republican said of US intelligence agencies having concluded that Russia interfered in the 2016 election, "That story is a total fabrication in order to do one thing: To prevent Donald Trump from exercising the legitimate authority he was given by the voters in the last election."

Media Castro: Hopefully Social Companies Will Cooperate In Dealing With Foreign Meddling. Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-TX), a member of the House Intelligence and Foreign Affairs Committees, said on CNN's Situation Room (9/14, 979K) that from what he's seen, Russia's social media effort in its election interference "was pretty aggressive." He said the exploitation of social media by adversaries is "going to be a problem that we're going to have to really tackle and solve in earnest, and I hope that Facebook and Twitter and other social media platforms will be willing to work with the congress to fix this."

Trump Rips Rice's Unmasking Of Transition Officials As "Just The Tip Of The Iceberg." The Washington Times (9/14, Miller, 541K) reports that President Trump on Thursday said that ex-national security adviser Susan Rice's admission "that she unmasked the identities of Trump transition team officials caught up in national security surveillance was 'just the tip of the iceberg," condemning "her actions as 'wrong." Rice, who served under President Obama, "told House investigators that she had

spy agencies identify Trump officials when the crown prince of the United Arab Emirates visited New York in December, when Mr. Trump was president-elect and the transition was underway." Speaking with reporters on Thursday, Trump said of Rice, "She's not supposed to be doing that and what she did was wrong," adding, "We've been saying that. It's just the tip of the iceberg."

The <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/14, Quinn, 465K) further quoted Trump as saying that Rice wasn't "supposed to be doing that. You know it. The unmasking and the surveillance, and I heard she admitted that yesterday. Just not right." <u>The Hill</u> (9/14, Easley, 1.68M) said, "CNN reported on Wednesday that Rice told House investigators that in December – after Trump had won the election and before his inauguration – she authorized the unmasking of the identities of his advisers Michael Flynn, Stephen Bannon and Jared Kushner in an intelligence report" over their meeting with UAE's crown prince.

Catherine Herridge reported on Fox News' Special Report (9/14, 1.88M) that sources say Rice "offered 'vast and varied' explanations for requesting the names of Trump transition team members" caught up in foreign surveillance. One source reportedly said Rice told lawmakers "she was bothered by a meeting reportedly between Jared Kushner, Steve Bannon, incoming National Security Advisor Mike Flynn, and the United Arab Emirates crown prince. Rice said the Gulf delegation had asked for a meeting with President Obama and then canceled, because they said they weren't coming to the US," but they "then came quietly to see the Trump team." An intelligence official disputed that claim, saying the UAE had asked for a meeting with Obama, but the White House "dropped the ball." According to Herridge, multiple sources say lawmakers found Rice's explanations "dubious."

However, Wolf Blitzer reported on CNN's Situation Room (9/14, 979K) that "sources tell CNN that lawmakers, even Republicans, were satisfied with [Rice's] testimony and concluded she didn't do anything improper." Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-TX) told Blitzer, "I can say when she left the room, I think from what I could tell, all of us were convinced that she had acted professionally and well within the law."

Harsanyi: Rice "Lied" About Not Being Aware Of Unmasking Of Trump Officials. Under the heading "Susan Rice Lied About Her Role In Obama Admin Unmasking Scandal," David Harsanyi wrote for The Federalist (9/14, 88K) that in March of this year, then-House Intelligence Committee Chairman Rep. Devin Nunes (R) revealed "that the Obama administration had conducted incidental surveillance collection and unmasking of Trump administration officials," saying, "I have seen intelligence reports that clearly show that the president-elect and his team were, I guess, at least monitored." Harsanyi wrote that Rice, in an interview with PBS on the same day, was "asked to respond to Nunes' accusation that she had unmasked those Trump officials." Asked by NPR if she knew "anything about this," Rice replied, "I know nothing about this. I was surprised to see reports from Chairman Nunes on that count todav."

Writing for National Review (9/14, 892K), David French also discussed Rice's response in the NPR interview and added, "Over time, however, her story evolved. She later clarified that she was simply saying that she didn't know 'what reports Nunes was referring to.' In April she said she never did anything "untoward with respect to the intelligence" she received. So, what was the truth? Did she 'know nothing' or did she do nothing 'untoward'? Those aren't the same statements, and the differences matter." French added that Rice "may seek high office again. We have to learn the truth about her conduct in office, and we cannot sweep even one more lie under the rug."

White House Pressing State To Speed Up Release Of Clinton Emails. Washington Times (9/14, A1, Scarborough, 541K) reports that the White House "has been privately urging the State Department to speed up its protracted process for releasing Hillary Clinton's still-undisclosed emails." That "pressure from the White House may be working. On Thursday, the State Department released a batch of Clintonrelated emails that show how she honored requests from Clinton Foundation and campaign donors to pull some strings. The department turned over to Judicial Watch, a government watchdog group, 1,617 pages of documents, including 97 email exchanges not previously disclosed." The Times adds, "The irony is, Trump administration attorneys have been in court defending the State Department's desire for a slow security review process before release, which a district court judge approved."

After Modifying Initial Decision, FBI To Release More Clinton Investigation **Documents.** In another report, the Washington Times (9/14, Dinan, 541K) says, "Weeks after saying there wasn't enough public interest in...Clinton's email case, the FBI's decision has been modified, and the bureau will publicly release more details of its obstruction of justice probe into the former secretary of state. The Justice Department confirmed the new position in a letter Thursday to Ty Clevenger, a lawyer who'd filed an open-records request for the information." DOJ "official Sean R. O'Neill said after speaking with Mr. Clevenger, they have concluded that the records in question are part of the Clinton email investigation file, which he said they're already making public in installments. 'Any records concerning the FBI's investigation of obstruction of justice are currently being processed by the FBI along with the remainder of the Clinton email investigation file. The FBI is publicly posting all releasable records on a rolling basis,' he said."

Townhall's Pavlich: Clinton. Abedin "Show Mishandling **Emails** Further Classified Information." Writing at Townhall (9/14, 523K), Katie Pavlich said that Judicial Watch has "released a new batch of emails, more than 1600 pages worth, belonging to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and longtime aide Huma Abedin. The emails, released by the State Department as part of a lawsuit, show further mishandling of classified information. The list of egregious incidents is long, including exposure of a classified conversation about US-Israeli relations, the war against drug cartels in Mexico, details about Clinton's arrival in war torn Afghanistan, Afghanistan elections and much more." Pavlich highlighted some of the specific examples listed by Judicial Watch.

Emails: Abedin's Mother Urged Clinton Not To Mention "Freedom" In Saudi Speech. The Washington Times (9/14, Ernst, 541K) reports that according to the batch of emails released by Judicial Watch, former Secretary of State Clinton "and her team refrained from mentioning 'freedom' during a 2010 speech in Saudi Arabia at the behest of Saleha Abedin," Huma Abedin's mother. The Times says Saleha Abedin, "a sociology lecturer at a women's college in Jeddah, helped craft a Feb. 16, 2010, speech that omitted any reference to 'freedom' or 'democracy.' 'Talk to my mom for sure,' Ms. Abedin told speechwriter Case Button on Feb. 12,

2010. 'She will have good points for you...' Saleha Abedin's 'IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER' email sent on the same day included instructions," among others, "Do not use the political terms such as 'democracy/elections/freedom."

White House Press Secretary Dismisses Clinton's "Excuse[s]" For Losing. Asked about Hillary Clinton calling for the elimination of the Electoral College, White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said on Fox News' Fox & Friends (9/14, 1.9M), "I think Hillary Clinton – this is about the 900th excuse that she's given for why she lost, and I think this book tour has done nothing but prove to America they were right in the decision that they made in putting Donald Trump in the Oval Office and not Hillary Clinton. She has just reidentified all of the reasons that she was not going to be a good candidate and that she wasn't going to be a successful President, and that's why is they chose Donald Trump."

The New Yorker Reveals Cover It Would Have Published Had Clinton Won. The New Yorker on Thursday morning tweeted, "This is the cover we would have published had Hillary Clinton defeated Donald Trump." The tweet included a link to a brief New Yorker article, published a day earlier, titled, "If Hillary Clinton Had Won: The New Yorker Cover," that showed "the cover 'The First,' by Malika Favre, that the New Yorker would have published had Clinton defeated Donald Trump to become the first female Commander-in-Chief." USA Today (9/14, Miller, 8.62M) reports that the never-to-be "cover depicts Clinton at night staring out a window that appears to be in the Oval Office." After "Trump's election, The New Yorker published Bob Staake's 'The Wall' on its cover, an image of a brick wall, partially built, that covered the lower half of 'New' in the magazine's name."

In Leaked Memo, McMaster Tells Agencies To Warn Staff Against Leaking Information.

BuzzFeed (9/13, 6.64M) reports that National Security Adviser McMaster "has directed government departments and agencies to warn employees across the entire federal government next week about the dangers and consequences of leaking even unclassified information." In a memo "obtained by BuzzFeed News...McMaster details a request that 'every Federal Government department and agency' hold a one-hour training next week on 'unauthorized disclosures' — of classified and certain unclassified information." BuzzFeed calls

the move "a dramatic step that could greatly expand what type of leaks are under scrutiny and who will be scrutinized."

Mnuchin Says Request To Government Jet Was Based On Need For Secure Communications. David Muir reported on ABC World News Tonight (9/14, story 9, 2:00, Muir, 14.63M) that Treasury Secretary Mnuchin is facing a "firestorm over his personal travel." This, after it was reported that he "asked to take a government plane on his overseas honeymoon" and "another controversial trip on a government plane," after which "his wife post[ed] a photo on Instagram, tagging all the high end designer labels she was wearing during that trip." Brian Ross added that Mnuchin "confirmed the ABC News report that he requested a government aircraft for his European honeymoon last month." but "said it wasn't a question of luxury for him and his wife, Louise, but one of having access to secure communications." President Trump "said he was unaware of the request, that he doubted Mnuchin would have done anything wrong, calling him a straight shooter."

In comments to Politico (9/14, Conway, 3.6M), Mnuchin "described the controversy over the request as overblown." Mnuchin said, "Let me be clear: I'm very sensitive to the use of government funds. ... I've never asked the government to pay for my personal travel, and this was purely about alternatives of how I'd be able to be involved for national security." The CBS Evening News (9/14, story 11, 0:25, Mason, 11.17M) also briefly reported on the controversy.

In an op-ed for USA Today (9/14, 8.62M), Norman Eisen, chief White House ethics lawyer for President Obama, writes that "there is already reason to believe that Mnuchin's honeymoon request was another attempt by one of the wealthiest members of the Trump administration to get a government freebie." Eisen argues that the matter must be "assessed in the context of his apparent repeated disregard for other ethics issues" including his failure "to disclose \$100 million in assets from his initial financial disclosure form," his use of his "his government position to promote the Lego Batman movie he produced," and his placement of "his wife in a business position that raised ethics issues until it was reversed." Eisen adds that President Trump "has created the environment for these kinds of serial

ethics problems through his own contempt for ethics and law."

Senate Panel Approves Four Trump Judicial Nominees. The Washington Times (9/14, Swoyer, 541K) reports the Senate Judiciary Committee "advanced four of President Trump's Thursday. includina nominees appeals court pick who won unanimous approval from the panel." The committee "voted 20-0 for District Court Judge Ralph Ericsson for the 8th US Circuit Court of Appeals. Senators also approved two of Mr. Trump's district court judges, Donald Coggins Jr. for the District of South Carolina and Dabney Friedrich for the District of Columbia, by voice votes." However, "the committee was more divided on Stephen Schwartz, Mr. Trump's nominee for the US Court of Federal Claims, clearing him on an 11-9 party-line vote" after Democrats claimed he lacked enough legal experience.

Administration May Replace Obama Climate Rule Rather Than Repeal It.

Politico (9/14, Holden, 3.6M) reports that the Trump Administration is indicating that it may offer "its own replacement for former President Barack Obama's landmark climate regulation — rather than just erasing it altogether." Politico cites "a source close to the process" who said that the EPA "aims by early October to issue a proposal to undo Obama's climate rule, along with a separate advance notice of its intent to consider a replacement." Politico adds that while such a "mend-it-don't-end-it approach on Obama's 2015 rule could appease power companies that say the EPA needs to impose some kind of climate regulation," it "would run afoul of demands from some conservative activists, who have pressured EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt to reject the idea that climate change is a problem requiring federal action."

Trump To Spend Majority Of Week In NYC At Palace Hotel. Politico (9/14, Karni, 3.6M) reports that when President Trump returns to Manhattan next week, he is "scheduled to spend more time at the Lotte New York Palace Hotel than at his own Trump Tower." A draft schedule shared with New York City law enforcement shows that Trump "will arrive at his home in Trump Tower on Sunday afternoon," but "is set to spend the majority of his week holed up

in meetings at the Lotte New York Palace Hotel, on Madison Avenue." White House staff will be work "out of the hotel, which will also serve as central command for the State Department and the setting for many of the US-hosted bilateral meetings, a source familiar with the planning for the General Assembly said."

Dow Sets Record As S&P And Nasdaq

Slide. The Dow reached a record high Thursday while the S&P 500 and Nasdaq "moved lower after a Labor Department report showed consumer prices rose more than expected in August," Reuters (9/14) reports. The Dow "rose 0.2 percent to end at 22,203.48 points, while the S&P 500 lost 0.11 percent to 2,495.62" and the Nasdaq "dropped 0.48 percent to 6,429.08."

Rosenstein Signals Upcoming **Corporate-Crime** Changes On Prosecution Policy. Politico (9/14, Gerstein, 3.6M) reports in its "Under The Radar" blog that Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein "indicated Thursday that the federal government's policy on prosecuting corporate crime is under review and he suggested that changes to the department's stance on the issue are coming. 'It's under review and I anticipate that there may be some change to the policy on corporate "during prosecutions," Rosenstein said question-and-answer session following a speech at the conservative Heritage Foundation in Washington." Rosenstein added, "I don't have any announcement about that today, but I do anticipate that we may in the near future make an announcement about what changes we're going to make to corporate fraud principles." According to Politico, the Justice Department's current policy, "announced by Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates in September 2015, aimed to increase prosecutions of individuals responsible for criminal acts committed during work for corporations."

Pompeo Cancels Harvard Speech After Chelsea Manning Named Fellow.

The AP (9/14, Riechmann) reports that CIA Director Pompeo canceled his planned Thursday appearance at Harvard University "over the school's decision to make Chelsea Manning, who was convicted of leaking classified information, a visiting fellow." Pompeo called Manning an "American traitor," and "said he agreed with military and intelligence officials who believe

Manning's leak endangered the lives of CIA personnel."

The Washington Examiner (9/14, Corell, 465K) reports that Pompeo wrote in a letter on Thursday, "After much deliberation in the wake of Harvard's announcement of American traitor Chelsea Manning as a visiting fellow at the Institute of Politics, my conscience and duty to the men and women at the Central Intelligence Agency will not permit me to betray their trust by appearing to support Harvard's decision with my appearance at tonight's event." The Boston Herald (9/14, 404K) reports that Pompeo, "who has a law degree from Harvard, said he didn't make the decision lightly."

Morell Resigns Harvard Post. The Washington Times (9/14, Richardson, 541K) reports that former CIA Acting Director Michael Morell on Thursday resigned as a non-resident senior fellow from Harvard's Kennedy School after Chelsea Manning was named a visiting fellow. In his resignation letter, Morell said he could not be part of an organization that "honors a convicted felon and leaker of classified information."

The Hill (9/14, Beavers, 1.68M) reports that while Morell "acknowledged that his fellowship through the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs is different from the school's Institute of Politics, he said he has 'an obligation' to...his conscience and country to 'make the fundamental point that leaking classified information is disgraceful and damaging to our nation."

The Daily Caller (9/14, 521K) reports CIA Director Pompeo "applauded" Morell for resigning his post in a letter Pompeo sent Thursday announcing his cancellation of an upcoming Harvard speech following Manning's fellowship invitation. The Washington Examiner (9/14, Correll, 465K) reports that Mitt Romney also "praised" Morell for his decision, tweeting, "Well done, Mike. And abject shame on Harvard."

Politico (9/14, McCaskill, 3.6M) reports that Manning "cheered Morell's exit, tweeting 'good.' She later pinned a tweet to her Twitter page: 'no more secrecy, surveillance, torture, murder, and genocide,' it reads. 'abolish the @cia.'"

Following Protests, Harvard Withdraws Fellowship For Manning. Following protests from Pompeo and Morell, Harvard's Kennedy School of Government early on Friday morning withdrew its invitation for Chelsea Manning to be a visiting fellow. CNN (9/14, Lang, Watkins, 598K)

reports that the school "withdrew the offer early Friday morning following controversy." Dean Douglas Elmendorf said in a statement, according to NBC News (9/15, 3.46M), "I now think that designating Chelsea Manning as a visiting fellow was a mistake, for which I accept responsibility. I still think that having her speak in the Forum and talk with students is consistent with longstanding approach, which puts areat emphasis on the value of hearing from a diverse collection of people. But I see more clearly now that many people view a Visiting Fellow title as an honorific, so we should weigh that consideration when offering invitations." Still, the New York Post (9/15, Tacopino, 4.31M) reports that Harvard "invited the convicted leaker to give a talk at the school."

McConnell-Backed Group's Poll Shows Moore Leading Strange 41%-

40%. In a report on the Alabama special election for the former seat of Attorney General Sessions. the Washington Examiner (9/14, Drucker, 465K) said that a survey of 604 likely Republican primary voters, conducted Sept. 9-10 by GOP pollster Jan van Lohuize, shows ex-state Supreme Court Justice Roy Moore leading appointed Sen. Luther Strange 41%-40% in the Sept. 26 GOP primary runoff. The poll was commissioned by the Senate Leadership Fund, a super PAC operated by allies of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who - along with President Trump - is backing Strange in the election. The report did not say how many voters were undecided. The Examiner added, "The RealClearPolitics average of recent polls in this race show Moore with a more substantial lead, 44.4 percent to 33.4 percent." The Huntsville (AL) Times (9/14, Gattis, 734K) reports, "Other polls independent of the SLF has consistently had Moore with a double-digit lead over Strange. No poll since the Aug. 15 primary has reflected Strange in the lead."

The Washington Times (9/14, McLaughlin, 541K) reports, "Backed by evangelical voters and riding a wave of anti-Washington sentiment...Moore is surging in the" contest, "threatening to upend the GOP establishment." The Times says that Moore, who polls show leading Strange, "won the backing this week of a political action committee that boosted President Trump in last year's campaign. But the endorsement by Great American PAC is all the

more stunning because Mr. Trump has endorsed Mr. Strange in the race."

Moore: 9/11 Attacks May Have Been Punishment For US Spurning God. On its website, CNN (9/14, Kaczynski, McDermott, 33.59M) reported that Moore "suggested earlier this year that the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks might have happened because the US had distanced itself from God." CNN added that in a video of Moore addressing the Open Door Baptist Church in February, he "quotes verses from the Old Testament's Book of Isaiah," saying, "Because you have despised His word and trust in perverseness and oppression, thereon...therefore this iniquity will be to you as a breach ready to fall, swell out in a high wall, whose breaking cometh suddenly at an instance." Moore "added: 'Sounds a little bit like the Pentagon, whose breaking came suddenly at an instance, doesn't it?"

Drawing from the CNN report, The Hill (9/14, Manchester, 1.68M) quoted Moore as further saying, "If you think that's coincidence, if you go to verse 25, 'there should be up on every high mountain and upon every hill rivers and streams of water in the day of the great slaughter when the towers will fall." Moore then added, "You know, we've suffered a lot in this country, maybe, just maybe, because we've distanced ourselves from the one that has it within his hands to heal this land." He "went on to say that God could be upset with Americans for legitimizing sodomy and abortion."

Palin To Stump For Moore In Alabama. In an "exclusive," Breitbart (9/13, Boyle, 2.42M) reported that Sarah Palin will travel to Alabama next week to stump for Moore. Breitbart said, "The event with Palin will be part of a bus tour put on by the Great America Alliance, an organization of grassroots activists solidly in support of the agenda President Trump campaigned on last year." Breitbart quoted "a source familiar with" Palin's plans as saying that she "plans to barnstorm Alabama the week prior to the special election to double down on her strongly stated support of Judge Moore."

NRCC Official Says There's "No Indication" Trump Will Wade Into GOP House Primaries. Politico (9/14, Tamborrino, 3.6M) reported, "There is 'no indication' that the White House will intervene in House GOP primaries," National Republican Congressional

Committee political director Joe Pileggi told Politico on Thursday. While President Trump "has gone after GOP Senate members — namely Republican Sen. Jeff Flake, who" faces reelection next year, Pileggi "said the idea of Trump intervening in the House field was 'hypothetical,' adding that 'there is no indication that is happening." Pileggi also told Politico, "We have a great relationship with the White House."

Progressive Groups Spending \$2M On Digital Ads Aimed At Boosting Northam. Politico (9/14, Robillard, 3.6M) reported, "A slew of liberal groups are teaming up for a \$2 million digital ad buy aiming to drive Virginia voters to the polls in November and" support Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam (D) in his bid to succeed term-limited Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D). Politico said, "Planned Parenthood Votes and Planned Parenthood Virginia PAC, the Tom Stever-backed Next Gen America, Priorities USA and the Virginia League of Conservation Voters PAC are all contributing hundreds of thousands of dollars to the effort, which will begin this week and run until Election Day. The ads will aim to reach and turn out more than 1.2 million voters." Northam is battling ex-RNC chief Ed Gillespie (R) in this fall's general election.

Gun-Control Group Providing Northam With \$700K In Financial Support. Meanwhile, the Washington Post (9/14, Nirappil, 10.38M) reports that Everytown for Gun Safety Action Fund, "the campaign arm of one of the nation's biggest gun control groups, announced Thursday that it would spend at least \$1 million in Virginia as part of an 'initial investment' to elect Democrats in November. The fund is donating \$450,000 directly to...Northam...and spending \$250,000 on mailers on his behalf. It's also giving \$300,000 to Attorney General Mark Herring for his re-election bid, as he faces attack advertising from the National Rifle Association."

Poll: 50% Of Voters Say Menendez Doesn't Deserve Reelection In 2018.

Politico (9/14, Tat, 3.6M) reported that in a Quinnipiac University poll 1,121 New Jersey voters, taken Sept. 7-12, 50% of those surveyed said that Sen. Bob Menendez (D-NJ) – in the midst of a federal corruption trial – "does not deserve to be reelected next year," while 20% "said he should be re-elected"; 30% "were undecided." According to the poll, Menendez's

job-approval rating stands at 31%, "his lowest rating since February 2008, when he had 30 percent approval."

68% Of Voters Don't Want Christie To Choose Menendez Successor. The Washington Post (9/14, Weigel, 10.38M) reports that in the survey, "when asked what should happen 'if Senator Menendez is forced to leave the Senate' as a result of his corruption trial," 68% said Menendez "should be replaced not by someone picked by Gov. Chris Christie (R) but by whomever is elected to replace Christie in November." Ex-Goldman Sachs executive Phil Murphy (D) is heavily favored to win this fall's race to succeed Christie. The Post adds, "Were Menendez to leave before Jan. 16, Christie would choose his replacement." The Hill Greenwood, 1.68M) reported that just 3% of those surveyed think "Christie should appoint himself to fill Menendez's seat, in the event that the senior New Jersey senator resigns or is forced out following his corruption trial."

At Menendez Trial, Prosecutors Focus On Timing Of Menendez Flight Reimbursements. Meanwhile. in coverage of Thursday's developments in the trial of Menendez and his longtime friend and donor, Florida eye doctor Salomon Melgen, Politico (9/14, Friedman, 3.6M) said that Menendez "did not reimburse" Melgen "for two round-trip flights on his private jet until a reporter started asking questions, according to testimony." Politico added, "The prosecution introduced a November 1, 2012 email from Washington Post reporter Paul Kane, asking [a Menendez aidel about a trip to the Dominican Republican that had surfaced in news reports just days before the senator was to stand for reelection." Politico added that testimony yesterday indicated that while the trips in question took place in 2010, Menendez didn't reimburse Melgen for the flights until 2013.

The New York Post (9/14, Whitehouse, 4.31M) reports that prosecutors showed the "jury a \$58,500 check Menendez paid [Melgen] for two round-trip flights he took in 2010 on the wealthy eye doctor's private jet. Prosecutors made a point, however, of noting that the check was written in Jan. 2013 – following a 2012 inquiry from a Washington Post reporter about those very same flights. ... A separate document showed that Menendez was also only billed for the 2010 flights by Melgen's son-in-law after newspaper's Nov. 2012 inquiry."

GOP-Aligned Group's New Website Tracking Menendez's Missed Senate Votes During Trial. The New York Post (9/14, Schultz, 4.31M) reports that the GOP-aligned group America Rising PAC has "created a new site dedicated to tracking just how many votes Menendez is missing in Washington because of his ongoing federal trial in Newark. As of Thursday the afternoon. www.howmanyvoteshasmenendezmissed.com has tracked eight missed votes. 'This is just the first week and there's no telling how long this trial is going to go,' said Alex Smith, executive director of America Rising PAC. 'There are important legislative priorities that are coming up this fall and I think the Garden State is definitely going to be missing out on one of its votes."

Head Of AFP's Tennessee Chapter Announces Run For Corker's Seat.

The AP (9/14, Schelzig) reports that "conservative activist" Andy Ogles (R) on Thursday announced that he will run for Senate next year. Sen. Bob Corker (R-TN), who faces reelection in 2018, "has so far refused to divulge whether he will seek a third term. Ogles heads the Tennessee chapter of Americans for Prosperity, a group funded by billionaire brothers Charles and David Koch."

Michigan's El-Sayed Bidding To Become Nation's First Muslim

Governor. In an online report headlined "Can This Doctor Become The 1st Muslim Governor In US History," ABC News (9/14, Verhovek, 2.83M) profiled ex-Detroit Health Department chief Abdul El-Sayed (D), who is mounting a 2018 bid to succeed term-limited Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder (R). ABC News said that the "32-year-old physician, Rhodes Scholar...became youngest person to lead a major American city's health department when, at the age of 30, he was brought in to rebuild Detroit's Health Department after the city went bankrupt." ABC News added that if victorious, El-Sayed, "the son of Egyptian immigrants," would become "America's first Muslim governor." Most political observers view ex-state Sen. Gretchen Whitmer (D) as the frontrunner in the crowded Democratic primary.

State Democratic Party Chief Says Rep. Castro "Considering" Run Against Abbott. The Dallas Morning News (9/14, Jeffers, Writer, 984K) reports, "In need of



someone to lead the top of the 2018 ticket, Democrats are trying to convince" Rep. Joaquín Castro (D) to challenge Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R) in next year's election. Speaking with the Morning News, state Democratic Party chief Gilberto Hinojosa said of Castro, "He and others are considering it. It's a very big decision for him. It would require him to leave his safe seat in the US House, where he's a rising star." The Austin (TX) American Statesman (9/14,Subscription Publication, 431K) reports that in an interview, Hinojosa said of a Castro run for governor, "He's never ruled it out." The American-Statesman adds that asked last month about a possible gubernatorial bid. Castro said, "Well I have a job right now and my plan is to run for reelection."

"The Upshot" Analysis: For Democrats To Benefit, Millennials Need To Turn Out At Higher Rates. Writing in "The Upshot" on the website of the New Subscription **Times** (9/14,Morris, Publication, 13.56M), G. Elliott Morris, a student at the University of Texas, who covers House elections for Decision Desk HQ, said, "Young Americans have been moving left and leaving the G.O.P. in recent years, but a successful Democratic coalition built on the backs of liberal youth is far from a sure thing," due to millennials' history of turning out in lower numbers than older voters. Morris added, "The 2020 election is supposed to be the first presidential race in which millennials outnumber baby boomers," but last year's "turnout numbers...offer a stark reminder: Boomers, who lean Republican, turned out to vote at a rate 23 percentage points higher than that of millennials. ... Unless that changes, boomers, though they may be outnumbered by millennials, may continue to decide their future."

Under Trump, ACLU And SPLC See Big Increase In Workplace Donations.

The Washington Post (9/14, McGregor, 10.38M) reports that since President Trump's election, the American Civil Liberties Union and the Southern Poverty Law Center have seen a "major" increase in workplace donations, according to Benevity – a company that "says it helps about 250 of Fortune 1000 companies manage their employee giving and corporate matching gift programs." According to Benevity's ranking, the ACLU "went from sixth place in 2016 to the top spot for the first time" this

year, and the SPLC went from 17th in 2016 to ninth now. Benevity CEO Bryan de Lottinville "said the shift reflects more event-driven donations tied to political news over the past year."

Johnson, McCaskill Criticize Waste, Fraud In Low-Income Phone Program.

Reuters (9/14, Shepardson) reports that Sen. Ron. Johnson (R-WI) said Thursday that Congress should consider ending the decades-old federal subsidy for telephones and Internet access for low-income Americans - a \$1.5 billion program called "Lifeline" - following a recent Government Accountability Office audit that "found significant fraud in the program." In addition to fraud, investigators "could not confirm whether more than 1.2 million individuals sampled actually qualified" and "could not confirm how many of the 12.3 million participants enrolled received phones." Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO) also said "the combination of ineffective oversight and the greed of some private carriers has led to hundreds of millions in wasted taxpayer dollars."

With Google Hit Gender Discrimination Lawsuit. The CBS Evening News (9/14, story 12, 0:15, Mason, 11.17M) reported that "three women who used to work for Google sued the company today discrimination," claiming that Google "pays women less than men for similar work and assigns female workers jobs less likely to lead to promotions."

NBC Nightly News (9/14, story 6, 1:45, Holt, 16.61M) reported that the lawsuit accuses Google "of paying women less than their male counterparts and also denying them promotions." NBC (Kent) added that three former employees, Kelly Ellis, Holly Pease and Kelli Wisuri, "say Google's failure to pay female employees the same for substantially similar work has been and is willful." In an email to NBC News, Google "denied the claim, saying, we disagree with the central allegations. We have extensive systems in place to ensure that we pay fairly. If we ever see individual discrepancies or problems, we work to fix them." NBC added that "Google's workforce is made up of 69 percent men and 31 percent women," and that "earlier this year, the Labor sued Department Google, alleging also compensation data revealed systemic compensation disparities against women across

the workforce." Google "has also denied those allegations."

World News Tonight (9/14, story 13, 0:25, Muir, 14.63M) reported the Federal Trade Commission is now investigating the Equifax data breach. Additionally, the Apache Software Foundation "now says that Equifax neglected to address" the breach "for two months after learning about" a software vulnerability.

The CBS Evening News (9/14, story 10, 2:10, Mason, 11.17M) reported the ASF "says hackers exploited what it called Equifax's failure to install the security updates" to a software vulnerability on a web server "in a timely manner." ASF executive Michael Landoway called the update "urgent," adding, "The fact that there was an unpatched server for a matter of months, just opened the door to the hackers." Landoway said among experts, the bigger question is whether the consumer data was protected through encryption. He said, "If it was unencrypted, there's really nothing that can be done from this point on. Now the hackers are buying and selling everything there is to know about our identity on the dark web."

NBC Nightly News (9/14, story 7, 2:10, Holt, 16.61M) reported MasterCard and Visa "are notifying banks that 200,000 of their customer credit card numbers were among those lost."

Obama Foundation Holds Outreach Meeting. The Chicago Sun-Times (9/14, Hinton, 742K) reports that the Obama Foundation held a public outreach meeting Thursday in Chicago that drew supporters and opponents of its project to create a presidential center in the city's Jackson Park. After hearing from a team of top foundation members and "a skyped-in Obama," the audience asked questions about how the center would benefit the community through jobs and training, while protecting affordable housing.

One Dead, Seven Injured In Ft. Bragg Training Accident. ABC World News Tonight (9/14, story 7, 0:25, Muir, 14.63M) reported that eight military personnel were injured Thursday during a demolitions training accident in Ft. Bragg in North Carolina. The training involved members of US Army Special Operations Forces. All eight personnel were taken to hospitals, but one "did not survive."

The NBC Nightly News (9/14, story 9, 1:30, Holt, 16.61M) reported the military is investigating the accidental explosion at Ft. Bragg, in addition to the accident on Wednesday at Camp Pendleton in San Diego that left 15 injured — with eight "seriously injured" — after an amphibious assault vehicle caught fire. Sen. John McCain was shown saying, "We now have many more accidents due to the lack of readiness and training and maintenance than we do in combat. We are asking them to do too much with too little. The result is an overworked strained force with aging equipment and not enough of it."

Washington State School Shooter Posted Video Of Himself Acting Out **Shootings.** The CBS Evening News (9/14, story 9, 2:15, Mason, 11.17M) reported that the student accused of shooting fellow classmates at a high school south of Spokane, Washington "had previously posted online videos of himself acting out shootings." A YouTube video posted in June showed the suspected shooter, Caleb Sharpe, "role playing in a first-person shooting game with toy guns." Additionally, a newly released affidavit "says Caleb told detectives he came to school yesterday to teach everyone a lesson about what happens when you bully others." The affidavit also says friends of Sharpe said he had made "improvised explosive devices out of various chemicals and white gas" in the past. The shooting left one dead and three injured.

Gun Safety Advocate: Gun Laws Should Prevent Suicide-Prone From Getting Firearms. In a Washington Post (9/14, 10.38M) op-ed, "gun safety advocate" Nancy Taylor writes that gun laws need to change to prevent those at risk for suicide from acquiring them. Observing that about "nine out of 10 suicide attempts with a gun are lethal," she recounts the story of her husband, who insisted on purchasing a firearm for home defense but eventually used the gun to commit suicide.

Weiner's Attorneys Question Credibility, Motivation Of Sexting Victim. The New York Times (9/14, Weiser, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports attorneys for former Rep. Anthony Weiner, who "faces sentencing in a sexting case that involved a 15-year-old girl, wrote to the judge this week seeking probation for their client." The attorneys "made it clear that he had no excuse for his

conduct," but "they also raised questions about the credibility and motivation of the teenage victim," arguing that "she not only had a profit motive for making contact with Mr. Weiner and exchanging lewd texts and images with him, but that she also said she had sought to influence the presidential election." The attorneys "made it clear that such information could have an impact on the judge's assessment of the nature and circumstances of Mr. Weiner's crime, and of course on the ultimate sentence."

Columnists Take With Issue **Democrats' Questioning Of Barrett.** A pair of columns take issue with the questioning of judicial nominee and Notre Dame Law School professor Amy Coney Barrett by Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee. Michael Gerson writes in the Washington Post (9/14, Gerson, 10.38M) that in questioning Barrett, some Democrats on the committee "displayed a confusion of the intellect so profound, a disregard for constitutional values so reckless, that it amounts to anti-religious bigotry." Gerson argues that "liberal thinking...seeks to declare secular ideas the only valid basis for public engagement." In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (9/13, Subscription Publication, 6.45M), C.C. Pecknold, an associate professor of theology at the Catholic University of America, also criticizes Democrats' line of questioning and argues that it was in pursuit of a politically progressive civil religion to which they expect other religions to adhere.

WPost: Kobach Is A Fraud, Not New Hampshire Voters. In an editorial, the Washington Post (9/14, 10.38M) writes that Kris Kobach's recent claims of New Hampshire voter fraud have "no evidence" to back them and that an examination of the data Kobach references as proof shows that "more than two-thirds of 5,900 day-of-election registrants who had out-of-state driver's licenses lived in college towns, indicating most were students voting perfectly legally." The Post argues that the "real fraud is Mr. Kobach himself...who will torture any truth, distort any data and fudge any fact in service to his long-standing goal of suppressing votes, specifically those likely to favor Democrats."

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP

New York Times. "A Hypocritical Battle Over Blue Slips." The New York Times (9/15, Publication, Subscription Board. 13.56M) editorializes that "now that Republicans control both the White House and Congress, top party officials, including Mitch McConnell, the Senate majority leader, are itching to eliminate the last remaining tool the minority party has to influence a president's picks for the federal courts - the socalled blue slip." The Times notes that "back in 2009, Mr. McConnell and the entire Republican Senate caucus — then in the minority — implored President Barack Obama to honor all blue slips." The Times argues that "the blue slip is no longer the answer."

Washington Post. "Trump Dares To Dream Of A Deal." The Washington Post (9/14, 10.38M) editorializes that it "doesn't often agree with...Trump, but we're on board with his observation that most Americans oppose deportation for 'dreamers," and believe he is "right to ratchet up the pressure on Congress to extend" DREAMers "the protections he is set to withdraw." Democrats "should reciprocate in good faith by providing new funding for border security."

"Kris Kobach Is The Real Fraud." In an editorial, the Washington Post (9/14, 10.38M) writes that Kris Kobach's recent claims of New Hampshire voter fraud have "no evidence" to back them and that an examination of the data Kobach references as proof shows that "more than two-thirds of 5,900 day-of-election registrants who had out-of-state driver's licenses lived in college towns, indicating most were students voting perfectly legally." The Post argues that the "real fraud is Mr. Kobach himself...who will torture any truth, distort any data and fudge any fact in service to his long-standing goal of suppressing votes, specifically those likely to favor Democrats."

"Israel's Strike In Syria Should Be A Wake Up Call For Trump." In an editorial, the Washington Post (9/14, 10.38M) writes Israel's September 7 airstrike on an Iran-linked Syrian military facility highlighted the difference between US and Israeli interests in Syria, in light of President Trump's statement the day of the strike that the US has "very little to do with Syria other than killing ISIS." The Post argues that although the Administration still should preserve the Iranian nuclear deal, the US "should be taking its own



steps to block the Iranian 'entrenchment' in Syria" about which Benjamin Netanyahu has spoken.

Wall Street Journal. "One Last ObamaCare Try." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (9/14, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) concedes that Graham-Cassidy is not an ideal solution to the country's healthcare problems, but concludes it does signify progress toward undoing ACA. Moreover. the Journal the warns Republicans that if they miss this opportunity to repeal Obamacare, their voters will remember in 2018.

"The Return To Regular Order." A Wall Street Journal (9/14, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) editorial praises the House Republicans for passing all 12 individual spending bills for the first time since 2004 and argues that while the bills will face Democratic filibusters in the Senate, perhaps the House's responsible action will encourage the Senate to act.

"Trump's Dreamer Dealing." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (9/14, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) urges President Trump to dismiss the criticism from some on the right, and predicts those same critics will be soon in his corner. To the Journal, an agreement on DACA would be a major accomplishment for the President.

THE BIG PICTURE

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

WALL STREET JOURNAL:

GOP Pushes Back On "Dreamers" Deal Sought By Trump, Democrats

Japan's SoftBank Wants Big Chunk Of Uber, But At Steep Discount

North Korea Fires Second Missile Over Japan In A Month

Shortage Of Insurance Adjusters Could Stall Florida's Recovery

NEW YORK TIMES:

<u>Trump's Support For Law To Protect "Dreamers"</u>
<u>Lifts Its Chances</u>

Immigration's Sudden Re-Emergence Scrambles Republican Agenda

Trump Humiliated Jeff Sessions After Mueller Appointment

<u>Trump Signals He Will Choose Approach On Iran</u> That Preserves Nuclear Deal In Angela Merkel, German Women Find Symbol, But Not Savior

Review: Reimagining "Peter Pan" For The Lipitor Demographic

WASHINGTON POST:

"Dreamer" Deal Gains Cautious Support On Hill Antifa: Fascism Fighters Or Lawless Thrill-Seekers?

Trump Tests Supporters With Immigration Moves In Flood-Weary Houston, A Call To Retreat
N. Korea Fires 2nd Missile Over Japan In Under 3
Weeks

FINANCIAL TIMES:

Merkel's Duel With Schulz Masks A Growing Challenge

Hawkish BoE Spurs Markets To Revise Rate Expectations

Le Maire Calls For Eurozone To Seize Moment And See Off Populists

<u>Trump Under Fire Over "Dreamers" Deal With Democrats</u>

Washington Times:

Obamacare Costs Projected To Rise Faster Than Inflation In Next Decade As Enrollment Declines

Dreamer Citizenship Rights Could Swell Immigrant Number To 1.5 Million

Susan Rice Reveals Why She "Unmasked" Trump Campaign Staffers

Trump Prods State Department To Stop Delaying Release Of Clinton Emails

Kosovo's Deep Love And Gratitude For America On Prominent Display Throughout Country Enrollments, Budgets Fall Short At Universities Known For "Social Justice Warfare"

STORY LINEUP FROM LAST NIGHT'S NETWORK NEWS:

ABC: North Korea-Missile Test; Hurricane Irma-Nursing Home Deaths; Hurricane Irma-Caribbean; White House-DACA Deal; Hurricane Jose Tracking; Washington State-School Shooting; Ft. Bragg Training Accident; NYPD-Police Shooting Bodycam; Treasury Secretary-Gov Plane Use; Maryland-School Teacher Murdered; San Diego-Hepatitis Outbreak; Young Driver-Guardrail Crash; Equifax-Cyber Security Breach; Plane Overbooking-Compensated Woman.

CBS: White House-DACA Deal; White House-Democrats Relations; Hurricane Irma-Trump Visit; North Korea-Missile Test; Trump-Charlottesville Comment; Hurricane Irma-Nursing Home Deaths; Hurricane Irma-Relief Efforts; NYPD-Police



Shooting Bodycam; Washington State-School Shooting; Equifax-Cyber Security Breach; Treasury Secretary-Gov Plane Use; Google-Gender Discrimination Lawsuit; Crayola-New Crayon Name; Selena Gomez-Kidney Transplant.

NBC: North Korea-Missile Test; Hurricane Irma-Nursing Home Deaths; White House-DACA Deal; White House-Campaign Promises; Hurricane Irma-Caribbean; Google-Gender Discrimination Lawsuit; Equifax-Cyber Security Breach; Selena Gomez-Kidney Transplant; Ft. Bragg Training Accident; Cartoonist Parent.

NETWORK TV AT A GLANCE:

Hurricane Irma – 14 minutes, 25 seconds White House-DACA Deal – 10 minutes, 35 seconds

Equifax-Cyber Security Breach – 4 minutes, 45 seconds

North Korea-Missile Test - 3 minutes

STORY LINEUP FROM THIS MORNING'S RADIO NEWS BROADCASTS:

ABC: North Korea-Missile Test; White House-DACA Deal; Ft. Bragg Training Accident; Wisconsin-Foxxcon Facility; NBA News.

CBS: North Korea-Missile Test; White House-DACA Deal; Washington State-School Shooting; Dallas-Confederate Statue Removal.

FOX: North Korea-Missile Test; UC Berkeley-Conservative Speech; White House-DACA Deal; NBA News.

NPR: North Korea-Missile Test; Hurricane Irma-Nursing Home Deaths; Washington State-School Shooting; Wall Street News.

LAST LAUGHS

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Almost every weekend since [Donald Trump] was sworn in, he has personally flown to Florida to make sure there were no hurricanes there. Sometimes he even carries a golf club to fend them off."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Hillary Clinton is promoting her new book. She told Anderson Cooper that a lot of people come up to her now to apologize for not voting. And when they do that, she says she doesn't forgive them. I guess she used all her forgiveness up on her husband."

Jimmy Kimmel: "White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders was asked about

Clinton's book. She said she thought it was sad, which is true. I mean, I don't want to spoil it for anyone who's planning to read it, but at the end of the book, Donald Trump becomes President."

James Corden: "So big news out of the White House last night, Democratic leaders Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi had dinner with Donald Trump, and they said that they struck a deal regarding immigration and border security that might not even include the wall Trump keeps promising. At the dinner, Pelosi and Schumer had the chicken while Trump ate his words."

James Corden: "Trump supporters were really angry today that it looks like he was making deals with the Democrats and abandoning the border wall. They said that Trump never betrays anyone, aside from Sean Spicer, Anthony Scaramucci, Reince Priebus, Steve Bannon, his two ex-wives, and that one daughter he never talks about."

James Corden: "Trump did try to reassure his supporters by tweeting this. He said the wall, which is already under construction in the form of new renovation of old and existing fences, will continue to be built. Now I'm sorry, you cannot fix an existing wall and then say that you built a wall. That is not how it works. That is like taking \$14 million from your father and saying you are a self-made businessman."

Trevor Noah: "One deal, now he's Mr. Bipartisan? Okay, you can't call someone a philanthropist because they tossed a quarter at a homeless person. Doesn't work that way."

Trevor Noah: "Let's talk for a minute about the Twitter. It's a wonderful invention, but we have learned that if you ever tweet something that offends too many people, you could get fired from your job, or you could become President."

Jimmy Fallon: "Trump went on Twitter to criticize Hillary's new book. So she responded by saying she'd send him a copy of her children's book instead. Trump was like, 'Got anything shorter?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Meanwhile, Ivanka Trump said that she doesn't speak out against her dad publicly because when you're part of a team, you're part of a team. I think what she meant to say was, 'When you're part of a will, you're part of a will."

Seth Meyers: "In an interview with CNN yesterday, Hillary Clinton said that the electoral

college needs to be eliminated. 'Same with regular college,' said Betsy DeVos."

Seth Meyers: "So the big, beautiful wall that would be paid for by Mexico and begins construction on day one is now an old existing fence that will be paid for later because we all remember those famous chants from Trump rallies. 'What do we want?' 'To renovate old and existing fences.' 'And when do we want it?' 'A little bit later than now!"

Seth Meyers: "That's right. Donald Trump is a party of one. Although, usually you hear that phrase associated with Eric Trump. 'Eric, party of one."

Conan O'Brien: "President Trump now says he wants the wealthy to pay more taxes and he wants undocumented minors to be allowed to stay in the country. That's what he said. Then this morning, Trump accused himself of being born in Kenya."

Conan O'Brien: "Trump supporters are angry, outraged over President's recent reversals on immigration. Trump supporters are very upset. This is the first time they've ever been this angry at a white male."

Conan O'Brien: "President Trump was very busy all night last night tweeting about Hillary Clinton. As a result, Melania Trump spent all this morning thanking Hillary Clinton."

Conan O'Brien: "Facebook is under fire because during last year's election, Facebook sold lots of ad space to Russia. Facebook said the problem has been fixed. Now they're selling that ad space to a really nice lady named ISIS."

Conan O'Brien: "The US government has announced a deal to sell 18 fighter jets to Canada. Those jets will help Canada protect itself from its most hated enemy, bad manners."

Copyright 2017 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's terms of use. Services including embedded Tweets are also subject to Twitter for Website's information and privacy policies. The HHS News Briefing is published five days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at BulletinIntelligence.com, or called at (703) 483-6100.



From:Bulletin IntelligenceSent:2 Oct 2017 05:59:36 -0400To:HHS@BulletinIntelligence.com

Subject: HHS Secretary's News Briefing for Monday, October 02, 2017

HHS SECRETARY'S NEWS BRIEFING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2017 6:00 AM EDT

Top National Stories:

9 MILLION KIDS GET HEALTH INSURANCE UNDER CHIP. CONGRESS JUST LET IT EXPIRE.

Washington Post (10/1, Valerie Strauss)

The Washington Post reports that "Congress just allowed the Children's Health Insurance Program, which provided low-cost health insurance to 9 million children, to expire." If Congress fails to act to restore the program, many children will be unable to get routine checkups, immunizations, prescriptions, doctor visits, dental and vision care, inpatient and outpatient care, laboratory and x-ray services, and emergency services. The Post adds that states still have some CHIP money remaining, but several states and DC are expected to run out of funds by the end of this year.

More Coverage. Congress Misses Deadline To Reauthorize Childrens' Health Care Program (The Hill, 10/1, Brandon Carter)

REPLACING FAULTY HEART DEVICES COSTS MEDICARE \$1.5 BILLION IN 10 YEARS

New York Times (10/2, Fred Schulte and Christina Jewett)

The New York Times reports the Inspector General's office for Health and Human Services released a report Monday showing that Medicare paid over \$1.5 billion over the past decade to replace defective heart devices, which failed for "thousands of patients." The officials said that nearly 73,000 people on Medicare had one of the seven devices which were "replaced because of recalls, premature failures, medically necessary upgrades or infections." The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Administrator Seema Verma issued a statement saying that the report's recommendation that hospitals and physicians be required to report information on failed devices, including serial and batch numbers, is "under consideration."

Health Reform, Marketplaces & Healthcare:

HOW THE EFFORT TO REPLACE OBAMACARE FAILED

The Hill (10/1, Alexander Bolton)

In a more than 2,700 word article, The Hill outlines how Republicans' strategy concerning the Affordable Care Act has evolved since the election in November. The article reports that at first many Republican leaders wanted to repeal the law and then leave themselves time to come up with a replacement plan later, but later the momentum shifted to repealing and replacing the law simultaneously. The article suggests that the Republicans made a number of strategic mistakes in trying to repeal and replace the law this year.

TAX REFORM DELAYS NEW TRUMP SHOT AT OBAMACARE REPEAL

Washington Times (10/1, Tom Howell Jr.)

The Washington Times reports the Senate GOP's budget proposal released Friday shows that Republicans plan comprehensive tax reform under the budget reconciliation process and will not make another attempt at repealing the Affordable Care Act until fiscal 2019. The proposal could still "target" the ACA's individual mandate to have insurance and some other tax provisions,



however. The budget proposal instructs the Senate Finance Committee to create a tax proposal that can pass with 50 votes.

DEMS LOOK TO TURN OBAMACARE TABLES ON GOP IN '18

The Hill (10/1, Rachel Roubein)

The Hill reports Democrats plan to use Republicans' healthcare agenda as a weapon during the 2018 midterm elections. Tyler Law, a spokesman for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC), said, "I think the message is really simple here: As long as Republicans control Congress, your health care is on the chopping block." David Bergstein, a spokesman for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC) agreed, adding, "The Republicans' toxic health care agenda that spikes costs, strips coverage for pre-existing conditions, and imposes an age tax on older Americans will be the defining issue of the midterms."

'NARROW NETWORKS' THAT LIMIT CHOICE LIKELY TO ENDURE ON INDIVIDUAL MARKET

Minneapolis Star Tribune (10/1, Christopher Snowbeck)

The Minneapolis Star Tribune reports that the 170,000 Minnesotans who buy insurance on the individual market encounter "narrow networks" as a "prominent cost-control tool for insurers in individual markets," where not all hospitals and physicians are in their networks. The article says "Minnesota is the land of narrow networks" since 45 percent of the plans sold on the ACA exchanges in Minnesota have "an narrow network of doctors and hospitals," compared to 21 percent nationally. Minnesota insurers for the first time in 2018 will have to comply with a new law that "requires them to offer at least one individual health plan with a provider network that includes in-network access to more than one health care provider system."

ANTHEM, HARTFORD HEALTHCARE FAIL TO AGREE, BOOSTING OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS

Connecticut Mirror (10/1)

The Connecticut Mirror reports that Hartford HealthCare and Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield's three-year contract ended Saturday and the two sides have not come to a new agreement. The result is that approximately 60,000 people will have to pay higher out-of-pocket costs to use Hartford Healthcare hospitals, employed physicians, and ancillary providers. Hartford HealthCare's statement said that it "worked very hard to avoid this outcome, and we will continue to pursue a resolution with Anthem." Anthem said Hartford Healthcare sought "a rate increase that is two to three times the rate of inflation, and that is not acceptable to us, and not acceptable to our members."

COLD WAR RADIATION TESTING IN US WIDESPREAD, AUTHOR CLAIMS

Associated Press (10/2, Jim Salter)

The AP reports that three members of Congress are seeking answers after a St. Louis scholar's book revealed details of "how the U.S. government sprayed, injected and fed radiation and other dangerous materials to countless people in secret Cold War-era testing." Lisa Martino-Taylor, author of "Behind the Fog: How the U.S. Cold War Radiological Weapons Program Exposed Innocent Americans," learned through Freedom of Information Act requests of several tests performed on unknowing Americans, aided by academic institutions, exposing them to "potentially deadly material through open-air spraying, ingestion and injection."

Opioid News:

NBC SPOTLIGHTS HUMAN COSTS OF OPIOID CRISIS

NBC Nightly News (10/1)

NBC Nightly News reported it is "launching a series that looks at the impact of heroin and opioid addiction in this country on smallest victims, the children." The report profiled a fourth grader who moved in with his father's family after his biological mother and stepfather were arrested, and both were users of heroin. After they were arrested, they "admitted to something unthinkable. They told police that when his sister was born last April, they knew she would be addicted to



heroin since her mother used through the pregnancy. When the baby was still in the ward, stepdad Colby told police he rubbed opioid drugs on the newborn's gums to prevent her from going into withdrawal and having seizures."

SOUTHERN OHIO AWARDED \$3 MILLION TO FIGHT OPIOID ABUSE

Associated Press (10/1)

The AP reports the Department of Justice awarded "nearly \$3 million to Ohio's southern federal court district" to support "drug court programs as part of a national initiative to curb opioid abuse."

IF ADDICTION IS A DISEASE, SHOULD RELAPSE MEAN JAIL TIME?

Associated Press (10/2, Alanna Durkin Richer)

The AP reports on a legal challenge to the Massachusetts "practice of requiring people with addiction to remain drug free as a condition of probation." Julie Eldred "argues that by jailing people with substance use disorder for failing to stay clean, courts are unfairly punishing users for something beyond their control." According to Eldred's attorney, "Eldred did not 'choose' to relapse any more than a person who has hypertension chooses to have high blood pressure, a person who is homeless chooses to sleep in an alley, or a person who is destitute chooses not to pay court-ordered fees or restitution." The AP reports, "A decision in Eldred's favor could transform Massachusetts' criminal justice system, observers say." The National Institute on Drug Abuse and American Society of Addiction Medicine is named among groups that "view substance use disorder as a brain disease that interferes with a person's ability to control their desire to use drugs."

Blogs:

GOP HEALTHCARE BILL, OBAMACARE REPEAL TIMELINE UNDER TRUMP

Business Insider (10/1, Bob Bryan and Skye Gould)

Bob Bryan and Skye Gould write in Business Insider that in early January, "just days before his inauguration, President Donald Trump told The New York Times that Republicans would have Obamacare repealed 'probably sometime next week." But the Affordable Care Act remains "the law of the land (though Trump is working to undermine that) and Republicans are no closer to overhauling their healthcare law than they were when Trump took office."

REPUBLICAN SENATOR CALLS HEALTH CARE, FOOD, AND SHELTER A 'PRIVILEGE'

Think Progress (10/1, Natasha Geiling)

Natasha Geiling writes in Think Progress that when he was asked by a Wisconsin high school student "whether he considered health care a right or a privilege, Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI) compared access to health care to access to food and shelter, arguing that all three should be considered 'privileges' for those who can afford them." Johnson further argued that "the role of elected officials is not to guarantee everyone a right to health care, but to grow the economy so that more people can afford access to health care."

Opinion:

ACTUALLY, A HEALTH CARE DEAL IS POSSIBLE

New York Times (10/2)

The New York Times editorializes that the negotiations between Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA) have resumed, and that they "hope to offer Congress a way out of the morass with a modest bill that could help strengthen the A.C.A.'s individual insurance markets, which are used by about 10 million people, without overhauling the whole system in ways that could deprive millions of people of subsidized care." The Times says, "Any deal will involve compromise," and recommends, "All things considered, Republicans should make a deal."

BIPARTISAN PUSH INTENSIFIES TO FIX OBAMACARE WITH PRICE GONE

Forbes (10/1, Bruce Japsen)



Contributor Bruce Japsen writes in a Forbes piece that in light of Price's resignation, "the effort to improve the individual health insurance market under the Affordable Care Act may gain bipartisan momentum." Japsen argues, "Price was an obstacle to stabilizing the ACA's exchanges and spent years while in Congress on unsuccessful repeals of the law." His "acting replacement, Dr. Don Wright, is seen as an establishment figure having worked for former Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama in various administrative health roles."

THE ONLY CURE FOR HEALTH CARE IS BIPARTISAN

Bloomberg View (10/1, Albert R. Hunt)

Albert R. Hunt writes in his column in Bloomberg View that "the party that owns health care is a loser." Hunt argues that right now Democrats have "the high ground on the issue" while defending the Affordable Care Act from Republicans, but Hunt suggests that Democrats could lose that position if they continue to push for a single-payer healthcare system.

GOP EFFORTS TO REPLACE OBAMACARE: CAMPAIGN VOW NEARING OBSESSION

Fox News (10/1, Chad Pergram)

Chad Pergram writes for Fox News on its website that Republicans' vow to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act is "nearing obsession." Pergram reviews comments by Vice President Pence Monday that the "Senate is close to legislation to repeal and replace" even as the next day Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell "decided to sideline the health care bill for the time being" because they did not have the votes. He writes, "What drives Republicans up the wall is that Democrats managed to run all of the parliamentary traps and artfully thread the legislative needles in such a way that they passed ObamaCare." He concludes, "That fact and that fact alone simply drives Republicans bonkers."

BRAIN SURGERY FOR PARKINSON'S CHANGED MY LIFE, BUT NOW MY SYMPTOMS ARE BACK

Washington Post (10/1, Dan Stark)

Former AT&T vice president Dan Stark writes in an op-ed for the Washington Post that deep brain stimulation "performed wonders" for his Parkinson's disease symptoms "for slightly over a decade." However, he says that ultimately the treatment "will fail the Parkinson's patient" because it "masks the symptoms while not affecting the underlying disease." Stark says there have been minimal advancements in Parkinson's research over the last decade and asks the president to "fund a \$10 billion research effort to find cures for 10 diseases" including Parkinson's.

National Front Page News:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

Trump Tells Tillerson Talking To North Korea Is Waste Of Time
At The Center Of The Equifax Mess: Its Top Lawyer
The Man Who Exposed College Basketball
Hedge Funds: Not Dead Yet

New York Times:

Catalonia's Independence Vote Descends Into Chaos And Clashes
As Catalans Voted, 'Dying With Fear' At High School Turned Polling Place
Trump Says Tillerson Is 'Wasting His Time' On North Korea
Back At Full Strength, Supreme Court Faces A Momentous Term
SI Newhouse Jr., Who Turned Condé Nast Into A Magazine Powerhouse, Dies At 89

Washington Post:

Assailed Over Maria Relief, Trump Stays His Course Crucial Term For Top Court Kicks Off
President Contradicts Tillerson On N. Korea



Illicit Cargo Exposes N. Korea's Arms Trade
In Catalonia, A Chaotic Yes
A Mountain Of Worry In Puerto Rico

This copy of the HHS Secretary's News Briefing was sent to you because you are registered for email notification on our <u>website</u>. If you would like to cancel email delivery click <u>here</u>.

Copyright 2017 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's terms of use. Services including embedded Tweets are also subject to Twitter for Website's information and privacy policies. The HHS Secretary's News Briefing is published seven days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at BulletinIntelligence.com, or called at (703) 483-6100.



From:Bulletin IntelligenceSent:9 Oct 2017 05:58:34 -0400To:HHS@BulletinIntelligence.com

Subject: HHS Secretary's News Briefing for Monday, October 09, 2017

HHS SECRETARY'S NEWS BRIEFING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2017 6:00 AM EDT

Top National Stories:

TRUMP TELLS WEALTHY DONORS HE'S COMMITTED TO RESTARTING OBAMACARE REPEAL TALKS

Politico (10/8, Alex Isenstadt)

Politico reports that President Trump told a group of wealthy donors in North Carolina on Saturday "that he was determined to push forward on healthcare reform – but acknowledged that he was facing serious obstacles in doing so." Trump "said he wanted to restart the talks" but "two people present for the remarks" said he "underscored the challenges of getting a majority of support for any legislation in the Senate, noting that there was a small group of GOP holdouts who had opposed the repeal efforts." Several attendees said he "did not rule out the possibility of working with Democrats to get something done." That followed a tweet on Saturday in which the President said he had called Senate Minority Leader Schumer "to see if Democrats wanted to work together on 'a great HealthCareBill."

More Coverage. Trump Tells Donors He's Pushing Forward On ObamaCare Repeal: Report (The Hill, 10/8, Olivia Beavers)

WHITE HOUSE TO ORDER HEALTH CARE ALTERNATIVES

Associated Press (10/8, Ken Thomas and Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar)

The AP reports the White House is working on "an executive order that would expand health plans offered by associations to allow individuals to pool together and buy insurance outside their states, a unilateral move that follows failed efforts by Congress to overhaul the health care system." The article says President Trump has been arguing that such a move would increase competition and help to lower premiums. However, experts point out that this outcome is "not guaranteed, partly because health insurance reflects local medical costs, which vary widely around the country."

More Coverage. Trump Executive Order Could Divide The Health Insurance Market (Wall Street Journal, 10/8)

Health Reform, Marketplaces & Healthcare:

ACLU RUSHES TO COURT IN REVERSED BATTLE OVER EMPLOYER BELIEFS VS. BIRTH CONTROL MANDATE

Washington Times (10/8, Tom Howell Jr.)

The Washington Times reports that "it took just minutes" for the ACLU to announce a lawsuit after the Administration announced that "it was rolling back Obamacare's contraceptive coverage mandate, creating an exemption for faith-based organizations that said paying for employees' birth control violated their faiths." The ACLU accused the President of "discrimination by allowing employers to put religious beliefs before the needs of female workers who had come to expect birth control coverage as part of their health care benefits." ACLU senior staff attorney Brigitte Amiri said, "The Trump administration is forcing women to pay for their boss' religious beliefs. … We're filing this lawsuit because the federal government cannot authorize discrimination against



women in the name of religion or otherwise."

TRAVELING IN STYLE: TRUMP'S WHITE HOUSE WRESTLES WITH CABINET COSTS

Washington Post (10/8, Drew Harwell, Lisa Rein and Jack Gillum)

The Washington Post reports on its front page that the Trump Administration is facing growing "criticism over travel expenditures among some of the billionaires, budget hawks and business executives who head federal agencies." Already, inspectors general have initiated at least five probes into the use of "charter or military flights by Cabinet officials amounting to millions in federal spending." The article says former HHS Secretary Tom Price, who resigned recently over the issue, "ran up charter costs of more than \$500,000 but pledged a \$51,887 check to reimburse the government for his seats." A spokesperson for HHS "told The Post that Price 'was under no obligation' to pay but that this was 'him wanting to make a gesture.""

More Coverage. Ethics Watchdog Blasts Pence For Use Of Government Travel To Colts Game (The Hill, 10/8, Jacqueline Thomsen)

STATES PLEAD FOR FEDERAL FLEXIBILITY ON HEALTH SPENDING

Washington Examiner (10/9)

The Washington Examiner reports, "In a strongly worded letter to the Trump administration, Oklahoma's health commissioner recently expressed frustration that a state waiver to lower costs for Obamacare customers had not been approved as quickly as federal officials had promised." Oklahoma officials sought HHS' approval "for a reinsurance program in which government funding pays for costly medical claims while keeping prices down for other customers." The state eventually withdrew the waiver request when it became clear it would not be approved in time to affect premiums for 2018. The article says Minnesota officials "were similarly upset over the lack of federal response for their reinsurance program." While the "Trump administration approved it in late September...it also reduced funding to another Minnesota program that covers 100,000 people."

PRESSURE MOUNTS TO LIFT FDA RESTRICTIONS ON OFF-LABEL DRUGS

Washington Post (10/8, Michael Ollove)

The Washington Post reports that for years, "drugmakers have been barred from promoting their drugs for uses that hadn't gone through clinical trials" because the FDA is concerned about safety issues. But, such "restrictions could be giving way, perhaps in part because of the appointment of Scott Gottlieb as the new FDA commissioner in May." The article says prior to "his nomination, Gottlieb, a physician and a resident fellow at the conservative American Enterprise Institute, advocated loosening the restrictions on off-label communications." The piece adds that there is growing pressure from the industry to ease these rules, but critics warn that the results could be catastrophic.

SEN. RON JOHNSON SUGGESTS COMPROMISE ON HEALTH CARE

CNN (10/8, Eli Watkins)

On its website, CNN reports that on Sunday, Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) said "he believed Congress could reach an agreement on health care that includes continuing the funding of a key set of Obamacare subsidies to keep down insurance premiums." During an interview on CNN's "State of the Union," Johnson said "he understands some of his Republican colleagues are against funding the cost-sharing reduction – or CSR – payments." However, the article says he argued that "the government should keep making the payments to prevent the cost of insurance skyrocketing."

More Coverage. GOP Senator: ObamaCare Repeal 'Alive And Well' (The Hill, 10/8, Rebecca Savransky), Sen. Johnson Says ACA Repeal Is "Alive And Well" (CNN International, 10/8)

HOW SAN DIEGO'S HEPATITIS A OUTBREAK BECAME THE WORST THE U.S. HAS SEEN IN DECADES

Los Angeles Times (10/8, Lauren Schroeder)



The Los Angeles Times reports that according to experts, "San Diego took all the right steps in addressing what is now one of the largest hepatitis A outbreaks the country has seen in decades, but variables unique to the city's situation contributed to the outbreak." Since November, about 481 people have been confirmed as being infected, and 17 have died. An additional 88 cases have been diagnosed in Santa Cruz and Los Angeles counties. The article says the state is "scrambling" to ensure homeless populations are vaccinated against the disease. Dr. Monique Foster, of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's division of viral hepatitis, said there is no national standard about how public agencies should respond to outbreaks. She is quoted as saying, "You can't have a checklist that says 'do x, y and z,' because no outbreak is the same. ... The type of illness, the group of people it's affecting and how it's being spread are all factors that will impact how a government should respond and when the public should be notified."

BYSTANDER RAPE-PREVENTION PROGRAMS FACE QUESTIONS

Associated Press (10/8, Mike Stobbe)

The AP says many training programs throughout the US are attempting "to teach bystanders to stop sexual assault, and now is when they have to be especially alert." That is because reports of campus sexual assault "are so common at the beginning of the fall semester, college administrators call this time of year the 'red zone.'" The article adds that support for such programs has been growing over the years, yet now, "some assault victims and their advocates fear new obstacles, including a recent announcement by the U.S. Department of Education that it would jettison rules that had pushed colleges and universities to be more aggressive about sexual assaults." The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention insists such programs are effective, although there is little supporting evidence to date. Sarah DeGue, a CDC scientist who worked on a study on the issue, stated, "Because this problem is so insidious and fairly common, even a small reduction could mean millions of people who are not experiencing sexual violence as a result."

Opioid News:

OPIOID CRISIS HITTING MONTGOMERY COUNTY, OHIO

NBC Nightly News (10/8)

NBC Nightly News reported on cases of opioid abuse in Montgomery County, Ohio, which this year has experienced more than 500 deaths from accidental overdoses – "a record for that county and a death rate much higher than most other places in this country." The segment also observed that while adults account for most overdose cases, "there are often kids present," and there have been 31 cases of children overdosing this year.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA PATIENTS REPORT REDUCTION IN USE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Chicago Tribune (10/8, Robert McCoppin)

The Chicago Tribune reports some medical marijuana patients in Illinois contend "the drug has allowed them to reduce or eliminate their use of other prescription medication," according to a new study conducted by DePaul and Rush universities. The authors say the small study of 30 people who volunteered to respond to questions "provides direct anecdotal evidence of what has been suggested by previous studies, that marijuana may contribute to reduced use of opioid drugs." The article adds that the CDC "has declared opioid abuse an epidemic."

Opinion:

A HEALTH CARE PLAN THAT'S UNIVERSAL AND BIPARTISAN

New York Times (10/9, Ed Dolan)

Op-ed contributor Ed Dolan writes in the New York Times that following "the collapse of Republican efforts at one-party health care reform, many Democrats have embraced Senator Bernie Sanders's Medicare for All proposal." He argues that hardly any "liberals would object to this 'single payer' plan if it could be enacted with a magic wand, but the political realities of getting



it through Congress are daunting." Dolan adds that the notion of universal catastrophic coverage could appeal to both parties. To date, it "has gotten more attention in conservative circles, but if liberals would give it a careful look, they would find a lot to like."

CONGRESS QUIETLY PUTS A CRUCIAL PART OF OBAMACARE ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK

Washington Post (10/8)

The Washington Post says in an editorial that the debate about the fate of the Affordable Care Act "has been out of whack from the start. Republicans have criticized the wrong things, allowing Democrats to ignore the Affordable Care Act's biggest flaws." The Post warns that "this off-kilter debate may lead to the quiet loss of one of the law's most important provisions, currently on Congress's chopping block": the Independent Payment Advisory Board. The paper urges Republicans and Democrats to cease efforts to repeal the IPAB.

A NUN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE

Wall Street Journal (10/8)

The Wall Street Journal says in an editorial that while the left is treating interim final rules from HHS which will permit moral and religious exemptions to the contraception mandate as a push to ban birth control, arguing that millions of women will be denied access to oral contraceptives, according to HHS, the change will not impact 99.9% of women.

HOW NARROW NETWORKS DOOM TRUMP'S PLAN FOR INSURANCE SALES ACROSS STATE LINES

Forbes (10/8, Bruce Japsen)

Contributor Bruce Japsen writes in a Forbes piece that if President Trump signs an executive order allowing insurers to sell policies "across state lines, it's unlikely to have any takers willing to prop up medical provider network in new regions." Japsen argues, "The trend in insurance is to narrow – not expand – networks of doctors and hospitals."

THE FISH STILL STINK IN TRUMP'S WASHINGTON SWAMP

Bloomberg View (10/8, Albert R. Hunt)

Albert R. Hunt writes in a Bloomberg View column that when former HHS Secretary Tom Price "was pushed out of his cabinet job last month for sticking taxpayers with \$1 million worth of private jet travel, the White House explained that his behavior was unacceptable in an administration devoted to draining the Washington swamp." Hunt wonders where Price "got the notion that it was OK to mix public service and personal privilege," and says an Administration's values "flow from the top. President Donald Trump has been signaling loudly through his personal behavior that it's fine to use government service for private enrichment."

OBAMACARE EMPOWERS MIDDLEMEN, NOT PATIENTS

Washington Examiner (10/9, Jennifer Minjarez)

Jennifer Minjarez writes in an op-ed for the Washington Examiner that the US "spends more on healthcare than any other country, but it spends it on the wrong people." She wonders why "there are 15.8 million healthcare professionals nationwide," 95 percent of whom are non-physicians. Minjarez suggests, "The healthcare system is built for middlemen, not patients and providers," and under the ACA, "they simply create inefficiency and drive up the cost of care."

National Front Page News:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

US Pressure On North Korea's Global Ties Bears Fruit
Pressure Mounts At The Top Of Deutsche Bank
Procter & Gamble Vs. Nelson Peltz: A Battle For The Future Of Big Brands
Weinstein Co. Board Fires Harvey Weinstein



New York Times:

White House Makes Hard-Line Demands For Any 'Dreamers' Deal Harvey Weinstein Is Fired After Sexual Harassment Reports
Bob Corker Says Trump's Recklessness Threatens 'World War III'
ISIS Fighters, Having Pledged To Fight Or Die, Surrender En Masse Harvey Weinstein Is The (Whispered) Talk Of Hollywood
Trump Tells Pence To Leave NFL Game As Players Kneel During Anthem

Washington Post:

Trump List May Halt Deal On DACA
New Feud Imperils President's Agenda
Scrutiny Of Cabinet Travel Costs Widens
In Elections, Facebook's Reach Has Kept Growing
A 'Long Bad Dream' For Families Of Wounded

This copy of the HHS Secretary's News Briefing was sent to you because you are registered for email notification on our <u>website</u>. If you would like to cancel email delivery click <u>here</u>.

Copyright 2017 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's terms of use. Services including embedded Tweets are also subject to Twitter for Website's information and privacy policies. The HHS Secretary's News Briefing is published seven days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at BulletinIntelligence.com, or called at (703) 483-6100.



From: Bulletin Intelligence

Sent: 18 Sep 2017 06:02:19 -0400 To: HHS@BulletinIntelligence.com

Subject: HHS Secretary's News Briefing for Monday, September 18, 2017

HHS SECRETARY'S NEWS BRIEFING

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2017 6:00 AM EDT

Top Stories In Marathon, FL:

THOUSANDS STILL WITHOUT POWER IN SOUTH FLORIDA, INCLUDING IN PALM BEACH COUNTY

South Florida Sun Sentinel (9/17)

The South Florida Sun Sentinel reports "more than 2,800 customers in Palm Beach County are still without power," after Florida Power & Light said the lights would be on by Sunday. FPL "now expects to have customers completely restored by Monday evening in Broward County and by Tuesday in Miami-Dade."

LOCAL SCHOOLS FACE OBSTACLES AS THEY REOPEN

Miami Herald (9/17)

The Miami Herald reports "Richmond Heights Middle School, won't have power" as classes resume Monday. Richmond Heights students "will be led by teachers to Coral Reef High School for classes."

SOUTH FLORIDA SCHOOLS STARTING CLASS MONDAY AFTER HURRICANE IRMA **CLOSURES**

South Florida Sun Sentinel (9/18)

The South Florida Sun Sentinel reports "Miami-Dade County public schools announced Sunday that classes will resume Monday" after "more than a week of closures because of Hurricane Irma."

IRMA AFTERMATH: 90,000 MIAMI-DADE RESIDENTS STILL POWERLESS

Miami Herald (9/17)

The Miami Herald reports FPL's Power Tracker "claimed 94,290 remained without power in Miami-Dade County and 25,040 sans electricity in Broward County as of 5:40 p.m. Sunday," despite FPL's assertion that 95 percent of Miami-Dade County would have power by the end of Monday.

KEYS HOMEOWNERS FIND HEAVY DAMAGE, BUT 'EVERYBODY'S OK'

Miami Herald (9/17)

The Miami Herald spotlights Lower Florida Keys residents who returned home to heavy damage, but were glad nobody was hurt. The community is looking ahead to the recovery.

MIAMI TO ORLANDO IN 26 MINUTES IS ONE STEP CLOSER TO HYPERLOOP REALITY

Miami Herald (9/17)

The Miami Herald reports tech entrepreneur Elon Musk envisions a hyperloop linking Miami to Orlando in 26 minutes. "A team led by Miami-Dade officials is a competitor among regions vying to potentially be among some of the world's first hyperloop routes, if the technology becomes a commercial reality." On Thursday, "the route was selected as one of 10 global winners of the challenge."

Front Page News In Marathon, FL:



HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S LOCAL FRONT PAGES.

South Florida Sun Sentinel:

Thousands Still Without Power In South Florida, Including In Palm Beach County South Florida Schools Starting Class Monday After Hurricane Irma Closures

Miami Herald:

Local Schools Face Obstacles As They Reopen
FPL Says It's Restoring Power On Schedule. Miami-Dade's Powerless Remain Hot
Keys Homeowners Find Heavy Damage, But 'Everybody's OK'
Miami To Orlando In 26 Minutes Is One Step Closer To Hyperloop Reality

Top National Stories:

SENATE REPUBLICANS LOOK TO REVIVE EFFORT TO REPEAL OBAMACARE BY END OF SEPTEMBER

Washington Post (9/17, Elise Viebeck and David Weigel)

The Washington Post reports that Senate Republican leaders are reviving their effort to repeal the ACA by the end of the month and have asked the CBO to "fast-track" consideration of the "so-called Graham-Cassidy bill." Democrats are reportedly taking the latest effort "seriously." The article adds that Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), who cast the deciding vote on the most recent repeal bill, has previously said he supports the bill "in theory," but "cautioned Republicans on Sunday against the instinct to 'ram through our proposal' with a party-line vote."

More Coverage. As Clock Ticks, Senate Republicans Increase Pressure To Replace Obamacare With State Block Grants (Washington Times, 9/17, Tom Howell Jr.), Republicans Aren't Done With Obamacare Repeal (CNN, 9/17, Lauren Fox, Phil Mattingly and Mj Lee), Republicans Push One Last-ditch Effort To Overhaul The Obama Health La (Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 9/17)

Health Reform, Marketplaces & Healthcare:

MINNESOTA DELEGATION PUSHES FOR 'REINSURANCE' APPROVAL

Minneapolis Star Tribune (9/17)

The Minneapolis Star Tribune reports that congressional lawmakers from Minnesota are "calling for quick federal approval of a state program to moderate premium increases next year in the individual health insurance market." State lawmakers passed a measure for "a 'reinsurance' program to help stabilize the market in Minnesota that primarily serves people under age 65 who are self-employed or don't get health insurance through their employer." But, the program requires federal approval, "and the chief executive of the state's MNsure exchange told a U.S. Senate hearing" last "week that action is needed 'in the next few days." The 10 lawmakers wrote to HHS Secretary Tom Price saying "we urge you to complete your consideration of Minnesota's waiver application as soon as possible."

DEMS CALL FOR ACTION AGAINST CASSIDY-GRAHAM OBAMACARE REPEAL

The Hill (9/17, Olivia Beavers)

The Hill reports that Senate Democrats are renewing "their calls to fight against another Republican healthcare push that aims to repeal and replace ObamaCare after reports surfaced that President Trump and GOP leaders are working to garner support for Cassidy-Graham legislation." The article says Sens. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Chris Murphy (D-CT) "are taking to Twitter to make impassioned calls for voters to speak up and demonstrate their opposition to the bill." On Sunday, Warren tweeted, "The fight to save heath care isn't over. Sound the alarm. We need you to fight today & every day until this @SenateGOP bill is dead."

2 GOP HEAVYWEIGHTS BRAWL OVER OBAMACARE BILL



Politico (9/17, Jennifer Haberkorn)

Politico reports that Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) was already facing some difficult challenges in his attempts "to craft a bipartisan bill to shore up Obamacare," but now, he is also "taking hostile fire from one of his most powerful Republican colleagues – the other health care chairman." The article says Senate Finance Chairman Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) said Alexander is infringing on his jurisdiction, adding, "It's pretty hard to get excited about what he's doing." The piece adds that this "long-simmering battle between the two Senate heavyweights over health care jurisdiction, a precious Senate commodity, came to a head with Hatch's comments Wednesday, which followed his scathing Washington Post op-ed the week before."

CLOCK TICKING DOWN ON CHILDREN'S HEALTH FUNDING

The Hill (9/17, Nathaniel Weixel)

The Hill reports senators introduced a bipartisan bill last week to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for five years; however, its passage before the September 30 deadline remains uncertain, as funding for the bill is still undecided, as our House members' plans for their own reauthorization bill. Some House members reportedly want "a broader legislative package" that reauthorizes a slate of expiring Medicare programs, while some senators have expressed a desire to keep the CHIP reauthorization as a standalone bill. According to The Hill, "If Congress misses the deadline, states wouldn't run out of money for their programs right away, but they'll have to start planning to shut them down."

INVESTIGATIONS LIKE THAT INTO D.C. HOSPITAL'S SEWAGE LEAKS SELDOM RESULT IN MAJOR PENALTIES

USA Today (9/17, Jayne O'Donnell)

USA Today reports healthcare experts discussing recent investigations into MedStar Washington Hospital Center's health department for its sewage leaks say the news underscores the fact that many medical facilities neglect to report or address safety violations, or often are not subject to penalties. The hospital is expected to implement a "corrective action" plan, although the problem has persisted for several years. One expert commenting on the issue, Lisa McGiffert, director of Consumer Reports' Safe Patient Project, suggested implementing regulatory changes such as conducting audits after safety lapses and CMS requiring more accountability to increase oversight of hospitals that have continually violated or are likely to violate safety standards.

WHY ARE DRUG PRICES SO HIGH? WE'RE CURIOUS, TOO

New York Times (9/17, Katie Thomas and Charles Ornstein)

The New York Times reports that for the past four months it has teamed with ProPublica to examine why drug prices "have been rising, and who is to blame," and to "shed light on the games that are being played to keep prices high, often without consumers' knowledge or consent." The Times says its reporting "has turned up some counterintuitive stories, like how insurance companies sometimes require patients to take brand-name drugs — and refuse to cover generic alternatives — even when that means patients have to pay more out of pocket." The piece notes several stories related to drug prices and their impact on consumers that have "caught our eye."

AFTER SINGLE PAYER FAILED, VERMONT EMBARKS ON A BIG HEALTH CARE EXPERIMENT

Washington Post (9/17, Carolyn Y. Johnson)

The Washington Post reports on its front page that the state of Vermont is experimenting with "a pioneering effort...to keep people healthy while simplifying the typical jumble of private and public insurers that pays for health care." The idea behind the effort is to "reward doctors and hospitals financially when patients are healthy, not just when they come in sick." While the concept "has been percolating through the health-care system in recent years," Vermont "is setting an ambitious goal of taking its alternative payment model statewide and applying it to 70 percent of insured state residents by 2022 which – if it works – could eventually lead to fundamental changes in how Americans pay for health care." The Post adds that this is "Vermont's second attempt to revolutionize health care," after it "was the first state in the country to embrace a



government-financed universal health-care system but abandoned the plan in late 2014 because of concerns over costs."

IOWA COLLECTING DATA LINKED TO DEFUNDING PLANNED PARENTHOOD

Associated Press (9/17, Barbara Rodriguez)

The AP reports the Iowa Department of Human Services has been collecting data on its state-run family planning program since its inception in July in order to "better understand whether the Iowa Legislature's move to cut funding for Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers is resulting in less access to reproductive health care." Iowa lawmakers decided to forgo federal funding in order to deny government funding for Planned Parenthood, the country's largest abortion provider. Agency officials spoke to lawmakers this month and a new "workgroup" will meet "within weeks" to study the information gathered. The article says the data will be a "key factor in figuring out whether the funding cut to Planned Parenthood and other groups will result in fewer Iowans receiving reproductive health care services like birth control, pregnancy testing and health screenings."

Opioid News:

AMID OPIOID CRISIS, INSURERS RESTRICT PRICEY, LESS ADDICTIVE PAINKILLERS

New York Times (9/17, Katie Thomas and Charles Ornstein)

The New York Times reports on its front page that the New York State Attorney General's office sent letters last week to the state's three largest pharmacy benefit managers requesting information on "how they were addressing the crisis" with opioids amid questions that insurers are "are limiting access to pain medications that carry a lower risk of addiction or dependence, even as they provide comparatively easy access to generic opioid medications." The Times and ProPublica analyzed Medicare prescription drug plans covering 35.7 million people and found access to less-risky or more expensive painkillers was limited, but "almost every plan covered common opioids and very few required any prior approval." Dr. Thomas R. Frieden, who led the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the Obama Administration, said insurers have "not done what they need to do to address" the epidemic. The Department of Health and Human Services is also "studying whether insurance companies make opioids more accessible than other pain treatments."

AN INSIDE LOOK AT THE HUNT FOR FENTANYL, THE DEADLY OPIOID DRIVING THE OVERDOSE CRISIS

USA Today (9/17, Deirdre Shesgreen)

USA Today profiles the US Customs and Border Protection officers who search the 1 million packages that come through New York's John F. Kennedy Airport for fentanyl. The article reports that most of the fentanyl comes from China and they use their own expertise, an X-ray machine, a "borrowed handheld laser that can peek inside packages," and a dog trained to detect fentanyl. The piece adds that the officers said it would be helpful if they had "advanced electronic data that would allow the CBP to target suspect mail packages with a computer program, instead of manually."

EXCLUSIVE: CHRISTIE TO ANNOUNCE \$200M PLAN TO FIGHT HEROIN EPIDEMIC

Newark Star-Ledger (9/17)

The Newark (NJ) Star-Ledger reports New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R) will announce this week that his state will spend \$200 million in new initiatives to target the opioid epidemic. The funds will primarily target "underserved populations," including "the uninsured, individuals on Medicaid, babies born with addiction and their mothers," and he hopes that, in the Star-Ledger's words, "the initiative will significantly improve the way New Jersey approaches substance abuse treatment and prevention by putting more emphasis on making sure care is geared toward sustained sobriety." Christie added that he spoke with President Trump on Wednesday concerning the opioid commission that recommended the declaration of a "national emergency," and said, "I think the president is where we need him to be and is going to be strong on this, but it's taking a little time."



Blogs:

TRUMPCARE'S BACK, AND NOW IT WILL LET INSURERS JACK UP PREMIUMS AS SOON AS YOU GET SICK

Think Progress (9/17, Ian Millhiser)

Ian Millhiser writes for Think Progress that a bill by Sens. Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy "couples steep cuts to federal health care spending with an overhaul of much of the nation's health care system." Millhiser warns that "an insurer could take someone's money for years while that individual is healthy" then "on the day that that person is diagnosed with cancer, jack up their premiums so high that they are no longer affordable."

Opinion:

COMPLACENCY COULD KILL HEALTH CARE

New York Times (9/18, Paul Krugman)

Paul Krugman writes in his New York Times column that GOP efforts "to destroy Obamacare have repeatedly failed, and for very good reason. Their attacks on the Affordable Care Act were always based on lies, and they have never come up with a decent alternative." He argues that consumers "might be tempted to assume that no plan along these lines can possibly pass, let alone one that, if anything, looks worse than what we've seen so far," yet "it's precisely because so many people assume that the threat is behind us, and have turned their attention elsewhere, that health care is once again in danger."

THE INEXPLICABLE HORROR OF THE DEATHS OF EIGHT ELDERLY PEOPLE IN FLORIDA Washington Post (9/17)

In an editorial, the Washington Post laments the "inexplicable horror" of the deaths of eight elderly people "found in a sweltering nursing home in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma last week." The Post says the investigation into the deaths "needs to sort out the conflicting accounts of what happened to determine who...dropped the ball in protecting these people," and their must be "a thorough review of nursing-home policies and practices and state oversight."

HOW LATEST SENATE TRUMPCARE BILL THREATENS K-12 EDUCATION

Forbes (9/17, Bruce Japsen)

Bruce Japsen writes in a Forbes piece that GOP senators' latest attempt to repeal the ACA "could lead to spending cuts for state education funding from Kindergarten through college, Fitch Ratings said in a new report." Fitch analyst Eric Kim wrote, "Negative implications for entities that rely on state support, including school districts, cities, counties, and public higher education institutions could be more significant given their generally more constrained budgetary flexibility."

BEFORE TACKLING SINGLE-PAYER, SAVE OBAMACARE

Washington Post (9/17, E.J. Dionne Jr.)

E.J. Dionne writes in his Washington Post column that before "supporters of universal health coverage get all wrapped up debating a single-payer system," they must focus on the Graham-Cassidy proposal, which he describes as a "dire threat" to the ACA. The measure, Dionne argues, "would be disastrous" and in some ways is "even worse than earlier repeal measures, which at least kept some of the structure of Obamacare's subsidies in place."

TAKE TWO: INSIDE BILL CASSIDY'S PLAN TO REPLACE OBAMACARE

Forbes (9/17, Avik Roy)

Forbes contributor Avik Roy writes that the Graham-Cassidy ACA repeal proposal "would turbocharge single-payer activity in blue states," which are currently prohibited from introducing a "public option" coverage into their individual insurance exchanges. Under the Graham-Cassidy plan, "states could use their new block grant dollars to replace their private insurance exchanges with single-payer Medicaid-like programs." Roy goes on to tout the measures that would repeal



ACA rules.

DEMS FORCE 'MEDICARE FOR ALL' ON AMERICANS BUT EXEMPT THEMSELVES

The Hill (9/17, Merrill Matthews)

Merrill Matthews of the Institute for Policy Innovation writes in an op-ed for The Hill blasting Sen. Bernie Sanders' single-payer proposal, saying its expansion of Medicare "would ruin the program for everyone, especially seniors," due to costs. Matthews predicts that single-payer will result in "waiting lines, rationed care and limited access to the newest (and sometimes the most expensive) prescription drugs and medical devices," adding that Congress would exempt themselves from what they would impose on their constituents.

DOES BERNIE SANDERS' SINGLE-PAYER PLAN HAVE A SHOT?

Los Angeles Times (9/17, Doyle McManus)

Doyle McManus writes for the Los Angeles Times that Sen. Bernie Sanders' "Medicare for All" plan is "a pony without a price tag" and its "biggest problem is politics." If any options for expanding health insurance advance, Sanders "will deserve credit for making single payer part of the mainstream debate" and for making a proposal like allowing everyone to buy into Medicare "look downright conservative."

HOW BERNIECARE SLAMS WORKING PEOPLE

New York Post (9/17, Betsy McCaughey)

Betsy McCaughey writes in a column for the New York Post that "Bernie Sanders' Medicare for All Act, introduced last Wednesday, outlaws private health insurance." Under Sanders' plan, "180 million Americans who currently have private coverage would have it ripped away and be automatically enrolled in public insurance" and imposes "an annual hard-and-fast dollar limit on how much health care the country can consume." McCaughey says outlawing insurance choice is "immoral."

National Front Page News:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

Trump Administration To Brief Officials On Emissions Goals
Inside Bank Of America's Move To Ditch 1,597 Branches Across The US
'We've Been Breached': Inside The Equifax Hack
In Libya, Islamic State Pursues Revival In Gateway To Europe

New York Times:

Amid Opioid Crisis, Insurers Restrict Pricey, Less Addictive Painkillers
Trump Lawyers Clash Over How Much To Cooperate With Russia Inquiry
How Violence In Myanmar Radicalized A New Generation Of Rohingya
In Alaska's Far-Flung Villages, Happiness Is A Cake Mix
Facebook Navigates An Internet Fractured By Governmental Controls
A Potent Fuel Flows To North Korea. It May Be Too Late To Halt It.
'The Handmaid's Tale,' Politics And 'SNL' Dominate The Emmys

Washington Post:

Fresh Warning Sent To N. Korea
Hurricane Responses Offer Painful Lessons
Presidency Reshapes A Key Trump Business
In Vermont, An Experiment In Simplicity
A Move To Dismiss A Tradition

This copy of the HHS Secretary's News Briefing was sent to you because you are registered for



email notification on our website. If you would like to cancel email delivery click here.

Copyright 2017 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's terms of use. Services including embedded Tweets are also subject to Twitter for Website's information and privacy policies. The HHS Secretary's News Briefing is published seven days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at BulletinIntelligence.com, or called at (703) 483-6100.



From:Bulletin IntelligenceSent:7 Oct 2017 08:17:53 -0400To:HHS@BulletinIntelligence.com

Subject: HHS Secretary's News Briefing for Saturday, October 07, 2017

HHS SECRETARY'S NEWS BRIEFING

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2017 9:00 AM EDT

Secretary Travel News:

PENCE PROMISES LONG-TERM HELP FOR STORM-STRICKEN PUERTO RICO Bloomberg News (10/6)

Vice President Pence in Puerto Rico on Friday "pledged that the federal government will continue providing assistance to Puerto Rico until the hurricane-ravaged island has fully recovered, saying there is still 'a long way to go.'" Pence asserted, "We will be here for the long haul. We will be here until all the people can say with one voice 'Puerto Rico se levanta. Puerto Rico is rising." He added, "We have a long way to go. President Trump and I know this. ... We will see this challenge through." Pence and second lady Karen Pence also visited the US Virgin Islands on Friday "and flew over St. Croix, St. Thomas and St. John." They were joined by Transportation Secretary Chao, acting Health and Human Services Secretary Don Wright, and Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams.

More Coverage. Mike Pence Estuvo Cuatro Horas En Puerto Rico (Primera Hora (PRI), 10/6), Minuto A Minuto: Culmina La Visita Del Vicepresidente Mike Pence (El Nuevo Dia (PRI), 10/6), Vicepresidente Mike Pence Visita Puerto Rico (KVEA-TV Los Angeles, 10/6), El Vicepresidente De EE.UU. Sale A Ver Los Estragos De María (El Nuevo Dia (PRI), 10/6), Pence Asegura Que EE.UU. Ayudará A Islas Vírgenes Hasta Que Haga Falta (W Radio (COL), 10/6), Jenniffer González Llega A Puerto Rico Con Pence (Metro Puerto Rico, 10/6), Pence Defiende La Respuesta Federal (El Vocero de Puerto Rico, 10/7), Queda Camino Por Recorrer, Dice Pence Sobre Áreas Dañadas De EE.UU. (Prensa Latina, 10/6)

Top National Stories:

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION NARROWS AFFORDABLE CARE ACT'S CONTRACEPTION MANDATE

Washington Post (10/6, Amy Goldstein, Juliet Eilperin And William Wan)

The Department of Health and Human Services on Friday issued new rules to roll back the Affordable Care Act's requirement that businesses provide female employees with free birth control. The rules, which "significantly widen the range of employers and insurers that can invoke religious or moral beliefs to avoid the ACA requirement that birth control pills and other contraceptives be covered by insurance as part of preventive care," serve to "fulfill a pledge [Trump] made as a candidate to appeal to social conservatives and that he amplified this spring through an executive order to expand religious liberty." The piece says "Administration officials and their allies on the right downplayed the impact of the change on American women, while women's rights and civil liberties groups portrayed it as a massive, discriminatory act."

More Coverage: Print and Online. No, The Obamacare Birth Control Mandate Did Not Increase 'Risky Sexual Behavior' Among Teens (Washington Post, 10/6, Christopher Ingraham), Trump Administration Rolls Back Obama Rule On Birth-Control Coverage (Wall Street Journal, 10/6, Michelle Hackman And Louise Radnofsky), Trump's One-Two Punch Hits Birth Control, LGBT



Rights (Associated Press, 10/6, David Crary And Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar), Massachusetts Sues Trump Over Contraception Rules Rollback (Associated Press, 10/6, Steve Leblanc), Birth Control: Trump Expands Opt-out For Workplace Insurance (Associated Press, 10/6, Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar And David Crary), Trump Administration Limit On Contraceptive Coverage Compared To Gun Control (McClatchy, 10/6), California AG Pledges To Defend Birth Control Insurance Coverage (Reuters, 10/6, Dan Levine), ACLU Sues Trump Administration Over Birth Control Policy (Reuters, 10/6, Dan Levine), Trump Administration Launches Attack In A Culture War, Rolls Back Obama Rules On Birth Control And Transgender Employees (Los Angeles Times, 10/6, David G. Savage), White House Cites First Amendment In Nixing Obamacare Contraceptive Mandate (Washington Times, 10/6, S.A. Miller), Little Sisters To Carry On Lawsuit Despite New Religious Exemption For Contraceptive Coverage (Washington Times, 10/6, Alex Swoyer), Maura Healey To Sue Trump Over Birth Control Regulation (Boston Globe, 10/6, Stephanie Ebbert), Trump Gives Notre Dame Permission To Exclude Birth Control, But Legal Challenges Continue (Indianapolis Star, 10/6), Trump DOJ And HHS Issue Major Religious Liberty, Pro-Life Protections (Breitbart, 10/6, Ken Klukowski), Trump Administration Rescinds Obamacare's HHS Contraceptive Mandate (Breitbart, 10/6, Dr. Susan Berry), California Challenges Trump's Rollback Of Birth Control Mandate (The Hill, 10/6, Julia Manchester), Trump Rolls Back Obamacare Birth Control Mandate (Politico, 10/6, Brianna Ehley), ACLU Files Lawsuit Against Trump Administration Over Roll Back Of Birth Control Mandate (The Hill, 10/6, Jessie Hellmann), Planned Parenthood: Trump Change To Birth Control Coverage An 'Unacceptable Attack' (The Hill, 10/6, Josh Delk), Trump Officials Roll Back Birth Control Mandate (The Hill, 10/6, Jessie Hellmann), Trump Admin To Reverse Birth Control Mandate: Report (The Hill, 10/6, Max Greenwood), He's With Them (Wall Street Journal, 10/6, James Freeman), Trump Officials Dispute The Benefits Of Birth Control To Justify Rules (Bloomberg News, 10/6, Anna Edney), Birth Control: Trump Expands Opt-out For Workplace Insurance (Washington Post, 10/6, Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar And David Crary | Ap), Trump Religion Rule Curbs Obamacare's Birth Control Coverage (Bloomberg News, 10/6, Zachary Tracer Anna Edney Erik Larson), Trump Administration Is Relaxing Obamacare Birth Control Mandate (CNBC, 10/6), Trump's Cold War On Obamacare (Washington Post, 10/6, Aaron Blake), Trump Administration Rolls Back Birth Control Mandate (New York Times, 10/6, Robert Pear, Rebecca R. Ruiz And Laurie Goodstein), Trump Undermines U.S. Birth Control Coverage Requirement (Reuters, 10/6, Sarah N. Lynch And Caroline Humer), Hill Democrats Furious With Changes To Obamacare Birth Control Mandate (CNN, 10/6, Katishi Maake), Trump Rolls Back Obama-era Contraception Mandate (Washington Times, 10/6, Tom Howell Jr.), Maura Healey Sues To Retain Birth Control Mandate (Boston Herald, 10/7), California Sues Trump Administration Over Changes To Obama-era Birth Control Coverage Rule (Los Angeles Times, 10/6), It's Official: Trump Rolls Back Obamacare's Birth Control Mandate (Los Angeles Times, 10/6, Michael Hiltzik)

More Coverage: TV. Democrats Denounce Policy Change As "A New Low," Republicans "Cheering" (ABC World News Tonight, 10/6), Administration Estimates 120,000 Women May Be Affected (The CBS Evening News, 10/6), "Harder" For Women To Access Contraceptives Through Insurance (NBC Nightly News, 10/6)

TRUMP CALLS SCHUMER FOR HELP ON REVIVING HEALTH-CARE PUSH: REPORT The Hill (10/6, Julia Manchester)

President Trump allegedly called Senate Minority Leader Schumer on Friday seeking "a path forward on health care," according to a GOP source, though "the White House and Schumer's office didn't immediately respond to a request for comment on the call."

More Coverage. Trump Personally Told Health Chief To Deny Iowa's Urgent Obamacare Waiver: Report (CNBC, 10/6), Scoop: Trump Phones Schumer For Help On Health Care, Worrying GOP (Axios, 10/6, Mike Allen), Trump Is Said To Have Called Democrat Schumer About Health Care (Bloomberg News, 10/6, Derek Wallbank)

NO PLANS FOR TRUMP TO CUT OBAMACARE CALL CENTER STAFF



The Hill (10/6, Peter Sullivan)

A spokesperson for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has said the Administration is not planning on cutting Obamacare call center staff for the Open Enrollment season. Obamacare backers, suggesting that call center staff are "one of the most important parts of the enrollment process," worry the Administration would implement cuts in an attempt to sabotage the law.

More Coverage. Even Red States Feel Left In The Lurch By The Trump Administration's Management Of Healthcare (Los Angeles Times, 10/6, Noam N. Levey), Democrats Accuse Trump Of 'Sabotage' On Obamacare Sign-ups (Politico, 10/6, Paul Demko And Adam Cancryn), Federal Open Enrollment Period Is Now Shorter Than It Was Before (The Hill, 10/6, Robin Gelburd), Obama Era Health Officials: Participation In ObamaCare Enrollment Is Key (The Hill, 10/6, Rachel Roubein), California Voters Warned About Their Healthcare In New Ad: 'Just Like A Zombie, Repeal Keeps Coming Back' (Los Angeles Times, 10/6)

FDA MONITORS PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTION IN PUERTO RICO AMID HURRICANE RECOVERY

Wall Street Journal (10/6, Thomas M. Burton)

Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb in a statement Friday said the agency is "keeping a close watch on the most critical products" that could be affected by the ongoing power outages in Puerto Rico.

More Coverage. In Puerto Rico, Lives Depend On Volunteer Doctors And Diesel Generators (Reuters, 10/6, Robin Respaut And Nick Brown), She Was Covered In Insects And Unable To Walk: Doctors In Puerto Rico Only Now Discovering The Problems In Remote Towns (Los Angeles Times, 10/6, Molly Hennessy-Fiske), FDA: Drug Shortages Possible Due To Puerto Rico Power Outage (Associated Press, 10/6, Linda A. Johnson)

Health Reform, Marketplaces & Healthcare:

FLEXION'S KNEE PAIN DRUG GETS FDA NOD, SHARES HIT LIFE HIGH Reuters (10/6)

Flexion Therapeutics Inc. on Friday "said its injectable drug to treat osteoarthritis-related knee pain was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, sending the drug developer's shares soaring to a record high in regular trading." The FDA's approval of Zilretta "comes at a time when U.S. federal authorities are implementing a slew of measures to combat opioid abuse, with President Donald Trump in August declaring the opioid epidemic a national emergency," the piece adds.

More Coverage. BRIEF-Flexion Therapeutics Announces FDA Approval Of Zilretta For Osteoarthritis Knee Pain (Reuters, 10/6)

U.S. SUFFERS SETBACK IN LAWSUIT AGAINST UNITEDHEALTH

Reuters (10/6, Nate Raymond)

US District Judge John Walter has dismissed a lawsuit by the Department of Justice "claiming UnitedHealth Group Inc obtained inflated payments from the government based on inaccurate information about the health status of patients enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan." The judge ruled that the "lawsuit had failed to identify any corporate officers who signed documents stating that data submitted to the Medicare program was accurate or allege any of those individuals knew the information was false," and "had not shown the government would have refused to make payments to UnitedHealth had it known about the conduct." However, he did note that the DOJ could amend its complaint to deal with the problems.



NEARLY SIX DOZEN CHARTER AND MILITARY FLIGHTS BY CABINET MEMBERS, MAPPED

Washington Post (10/6, Philip Bump)

The piece reports that "about a half-dozen members of President Trump's Cabinet, past and present, spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on charter jets, military planes and other government aircraft for travel that often could have been undertaken much less expensively on commercial aircraft." A Post analysis of government data "recorded 71 separate flights" undertaken by former Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price, Treasury Secretary Mnuchin, Transportation Secretary Chao, Energy Secretary Perry, Interior Secretary Zinke, and EPA Administrator Pruitt. The article examines spending estimates on the various flights and says "Price is the poster child for this travel," but "Perry wins the worst-timing award" because his flight occurred on September 28, "the day before Price resigned because of his habit of taking charter flights."

More Coverage. EPA Inspector General Now Investigating Pruitt's Use Of Military, Private Flights (Washington Post, 10/6, Brady Dennis), EPA Watchdog Expands Audit Of Administrator's Travel: Memo (Reuters, 10/6), Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin Used Military Planes Without Adequate Justification, Inspector General Finds (Los Angeles Times, 10/6, Lauren Rosenblatt), Energy Dept: Perry Flew Charter Plane On White House-requested Trip (The Hill, 10/6, Timothy Cama), Trump Administration Travel Abuses Start To Look Even Worse (MSNBC, 10/6), Watchdog Expands Probe Into EPA Chief's Travel (The Hill, 10/6, Timothy Cama)

WATCHDOG: VETERANS SYSTEM MAY HAVE OVERPAID FOR \$257M IN PROSTHETICS The Hill (10/6, Ellen Mitchell)

The Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General has found that the Veterans Health Administration "may have overpaid for more than a quarter of a billion dollars in prosthetics in 2015 by inappropriately using government-issued charge cards." According to the VA report, the VHA bought nearly \$2 billion worth of prosthetics in FY 2015, overpaying \$256.7 million. The OIG "also found that VHA staff not authorized to make prosthetics buys that cost more than \$3,500 did so anyway."

U.S. TRAFFIC FATALITIES ROSE 5.6% IN 2016

Wall Street Journal (10/6, Mike Spector)

Data released Friday by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration revealed that US traffic fatalities rose at an annual rate of 5.6 percent in 2016 to 37,461 deaths. NHTSA data show traffic deaths related to reckless driving behaviors increased while deaths due to distracted driving or driving while fatigued dropped. The increase in deaths over the past few years counters a general trend of falling fatality rates over the past decade, and also occurred in spite of advances in vehicle safety technology. Within the increase in deaths in 2016 was also a nine-percent spike in pedestrian fatalities, which reached their highest point since 1990.

More Coverage. <u>Traffic Deaths Spiked In 2016, Including Pedestrians Killed</u> (Associated Press, 10/6, Joan Lowy), <u>Traffic Deaths Keep Rising In U.S.</u>, <u>But Don't Blame Texting</u> (Bloomberg News, 10/6, Ryan Beene), <u>U.S. Traffic Deaths Jumped 5.6 Percent In 2016 To Decade-high</u> (Reuters, 10/6, David Shepardson)

SOME U.S. VISITORS TO CUBA COMPLAIN OF SYMPTOMS SIMILAR TO EMBASSY 'ATTACKS': U.S

Reuters (10/6, Matt Spetalnick)

An anonymous "State Department spokesperson" said Friday that a "handful" of American civilians who visited Cuba have notified the State Department to complain of symptoms similar to



those affecting at least 22 US diplomatic personnel in Havana. The spokesperson said the US government "cannot verify the claims." The State Department issued a travel warning last week urging US citizens to avoid visiting Cuba because of the mysterious health attacks.

More Coverage. <u>US Travelers To Cuba Report Symptoms Similar To Diplomats</u> (The Hill, 10/6, John Bowden), <u>US: A Few Visitors To Cuba Claim Symptoms Similar To Attacks</u> (Associated Press, 10/6, Josh Lederman)

RESEARCHERS PREDICT A QUARTER-MILLION NEW CASES OF BREAST CANCER IN THE U.S.

New York Times (10/6, Nicholas Bakalar)

American Cancer Society researchers are predicting 252,710 new cases of invasive breast cancer in the US this year. They also found disparities in breast cancer incidence and mortality among racial groups, with non-Hispanic whites and non-Hispanic blacks having higher rates than other groups. According to Carol E. DeSantis, director of breast and gynecological cancer surveillance, the disparity is "not inevitable," and "access to care, economic status, getting high quality treatment early and beginning and completing chemotherapy are all factors" that influence it

More Coverage. As Cancer Tears Through Africa, Drug Makers Draw Up A Battle Plan (New York Times, 10/7, Donald G. McNeil Jr.)

THE NEVER-ENDING BATTLE AGAINST SPORT'S HIDDEN FOE

New York Times (10/6, Bill Pennington)

The piece details efforts by schools and athletic organizations to prevent outbreaks of MRSA, which has "become a never-ending fight against a hidden foe that resists conventional antibiotics." Despite increased urgency to combat the disease, "new behavioral trends – like some teenagers' dogged aversions to showering after games and practices --" are making it difficult to control. What's more, there is no study on the disease's prorogation among athletes, further complicating efforts to gauge the efficacy of preventive measures. However, the article notes, "athletic trainers and team doctors nationwide have insisted that MRSA cases in sports declined substantially in the last decade."

COMMON AIRLINE BOARDING PRACTICE MAKES SPREAD OF DISEASE MORE LIKELY, STUDY SAYS

Los Angeles Times (10/6, Hugo Martin)

"The common practice of boarding airline passengers by classes is the worst way to avoid spreading infectious diseases, according to a study from Arizona State University." The study "found that infection rates increased when passengers were crowded together – as they often are while trying to board a plane." The article adds that "in the case of an Ebola outbreak, the study said that the current boarding practice used by most airlines would lead to a 67% chance of 20 air-travel-related cases a month."

Blogs:

NEARLY ONE-THIRD OF NEW DRUGS ARE NO BETTER THAN OLDER DRUGS, AND SOME ARE WORSE

Health Affairs (10/6, Jonathan Darrow and Aaron Kesselheim)

The faculty member at Harvard Medical School and member of the Program on Regulation, Therapeutics, and Law (PORTAL) at Brigham & Women's Hospital as well as the assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School in the Division of Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacoeconomics, Department of Medicine, Brigham and Women's Hospital discuss a recent



study by James D. Chambers and colleagues that found medications that the Food and Drug Administration "approved under one or more expedited programs were, on average, associated with larger health gains than those approved under conventional development and review programs" and "concluded that the FDA has prioritized the review of drugs that offer the largest clinical advancements." They assert "Chambers and his colleagues should be applauded for using as their metric net health benefit, which is the raison d'être of any pharmaceutical intervention" However, they contend this research "revealed important information about the benefits of new drugs that is highly patient-relevant, namely, that 20 percent of expedited drugs and 41 percent of non-expedited drugs offered zero or negative incremental health gains over older comparators." They argue the findings "suggest that some of the focus on development and approval speed should be redirected to promoting, measuring, and reporting drug efficacy."

Opinion:

MR. TRUMP'S ATTACK ON BIRTH CONTROL

New York Times (10/6)

The editorial criticizes the Administration for "making it harder for women to get access to birth control" under the "guise of protecting religious freedom and moral sensibilities." According to the piece, the contraceptive mandate "has helped millions of women avoid unwanted pregnancy by eliminating out-of-pockets costs for contraception." The editorial adds that "if that were not bad enough, officials made the changes effective immediately. The administration claimed, absurdly, that the rule had to be issued quickly because the normal process of seeking public comment before acting would be 'impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest." The piece concludes "President Trump's assault on the birth control mandate is like his broader attack on the Affordable Care Act, filled with spite, based on falsehoods and fueled by vindictiveness toward his predecessor. And both will hurt millions of people."

TRUMP TAKES AWAY FUNDAMENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR WOMEN

New York Times (10/6, Dr. Raegan McDonald-Mosley)

In an op-ed, the Chief Medical Officer at the Planned Parenthood Federation of America contends that President Trump's decision to roll back the Affordable Care Act's contraceptive mandate "revealed" his Administration's "disdain for women" and she expresses concern "that this move will manufacture a medical crisis for millions of women across the country."

OUT OF CONTROL ON CONTRACEPTION

New York Times (10/6, Gail Collins)

The columnist concedes "many people of good will believe the country's commitment to human rights makes abortion immoral," but she argues "the best way to avoid abortions is to avoid unwanted pregnancy, which means making it as easy as possible for women to practice birth control." She asserts "there are only two possible explanations" to opposing both abortion and contraception: either by being "a hypocritical politician trolling for right-to-life votes without any personal convictions whatsoever," like outgoing Rep. Tim Murphy, or "people of sincere religious conviction, trying to impose their own personal theology on Americans who don't share it." She adds that despite the Administration's claims, "the Trump backtrack" is "about empowering them to impose those beliefs on their workers." She concludes that while House Speaker Ryan said the decision marks "a landmark day for religious liberty," it rather was "a tough day for the First Amendment, for the people who've been struggling to make unwanted pregnancies, and abortion, as rare as possible."

GOP, PROTECTING COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS IS GOOD POLICY, TACTICS

The Hill (10/6, Former Gov. Mike Leavitt (R-UT))

The founder of Leavitt Partners and former secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services calls upon his fellow Republicans to "support the extension of the Community Health



Center Fund," which "provide care for the underserved and help improve our communities in the most efficient way." He contends "community health centers represent a hallmark of Republican's compassion for the poor, support for strong civic institutions, and advocacy for effective health care, which we should be proud to protect."

A CALL TO WASHINGTON FROM THE PHARMA INDUSTRY: LET'S PARTNER TO TACKLE THE OPIOID CRISIS

The Hill (10/6, Dr. Roger Crystal)

The CEO of specialty pharmaceutical company Opiant Pharmaceuticals "propose[s] three main strategies for tackling the societal problem of addiction while treating and addressing the immediate and fatal consequences of the opioid crisis." He concludes these "strategies will impact the opioid crisis we are facing, but they will also prevent us from ending up in a similar catastrophe in the future. Through education, research and public-private collaboration, we can and will prevent losing more lives to the opioid epidemic."

National Front Page News:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

Hurricane-Battered US Shed 33,000 Jobs In September
Why A Nobel Peace Icon Chose To Stay Silent Amid A Crackdown On A Muslim Minority
Where Amazon Is Failing To Dominate: Hollywood
Trump Administration Rolls Back Obama Birth-Control Rule

New York Times:

Trump Administration Rolls Back Birth Control Mandate
Company Scrambles As Weinstein Takes Leave And A Third Of The Board Resigns
After 78 Killings, A Honduran Drug Lord Partners With The US
'My Stomach Dropped': Harrowing Night For Twin Brothers Of The Las Vegas Police
Courts Thwart Administration's Effort To Rescind Obama-Era Environmental Regulations
Canada To Pay Millions In Indigenous Lawsuit Over Forced Adoptions
Tokyo Is Preparing For Floods 'Beyond Anything We've Seen'

Washington Post:

President, With Tweet, Dives Into Virginia Race
To Drain 'Swamp,' Trump's Base Has Filled GOP Coffers
US Neighbors See Increasing Risk Of Failure In NAFTA Talks
Nuclear Weapons Foes Win Nobel Peace Prize
In Vegas, Invisible Wounds Run Deep

This copy of the HHS Secretary's News Briefing was sent to you because you are registered for email notification on our <u>website</u>. If you would like to cancel email delivery click <u>here</u>.

Copyright 2017 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's terms of use. Services including embedded Tweets are also subject to Twitter for Website's information and privacy policies. The HHS Secretary's News Briefing is published seven days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for



government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at BulletinIntelligence.com, or called at $(703)\ 483-6100$.



From: Bulletin Intelligence

Sent: 1 Oct 2017 12:31:18 -0400

To: HHS@BulletinIntelligence.com

Subject: HHS Secretary's News Briefing for Sunday, October 01, 2017

HHS SECRETARY'S NEWS BRIEFING

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2017 12:30 PM EDT

Top National Stories:

WHO IS DON WRIGHT, THE NEW ACTING SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES?

USA Today (9/30, Michael Collins)

The profile of Don Wright, the new acting Secretary of Health and Human Services, says he "is a family medicine physician who embarked on a career in the federal government 14 years ago under then-President George W. Bush and has held a number of senior executive roles." The piece adds "Wright's public service career has focused broadly on public health, occupational health and health policy, as well as health care quality, disease prevention and health promotion, according to his LinkedIn biography," which states that "his career highlights...include developing and implementing a national plan to reduce health care associated affections; creating a system 'of measurable performance measures' for 13 program offices and 10 regional health offices; and providing research misconduct oversight for a \$30 billion research portfolio funded by the federal government."

More Coverage. Price's Exit Further Complicates GOP Health Care Push (Associated Press, 9/30, Jill Colvin And Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar), Being Called A 'Good Man' By Trump Is Sometimes An Omen (Associated Press, 9/30, Jill Colvin), Price The Latest In A String Of Highprofile Trump Departures (The Hill, 9/30, Julia Manchester), Trump's Cabinet And Charter Flights: What We Know And Don't Know (The Hill, 9/30, Nathaniel Weixel), Trump's Next Move On Health Care? Choice For Secretary May Offer Clue (New York Times, 9/30, Peter Baker And Robert Pear), Inside Tom Price's Resignation (Politico, 9/30)

Rubio Suggests Travel Issue Is An Executive Office Management Issue. Sen. Marco Rubio (R) was asked about HHS Secretary, Tom Price's, resignation over his travel on CBS' Face The Nation. (10/1, Dickerson) He said in response to a question of whether the issue of this type of travel may be an issue for congress, "I think it's an executive office management issue, if they can get ahead of it manage it appropriately, prevent that from happening in the future, that's what we would expect them do." He added that congress "should be focused on tax reform."

Mulveny Comments On Price Resignation. Mick Mulveny, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, joined Fox News Sunday (10/1, Wallace) and was asked about HHS Secretary Tom Price's resignation in the face of government funded air travel. Mulveny said he suspected the travel will be found to be legal but whether or not it was "right" may be another issue. Mulveny sent a memo to staff on the rules behind government funded travel to make sure the policy was clear. He said that there are times when government travel is necessary.

HURRICANE STRESSES PUERTO RICO'S ALREADY WEAK HEALTH SYSTEM

Associated Press (9/30, Ben Fox And Danica Coto)

Prior to Hurricane Maria, Puerto Rico's healthcare system "was already precarious, with a population that is generally sicker, older and poorer than that of the mainland, long waits and a severe shortage of specialists as a result of a decade-long economic recession," but now that the



storm has passed, "the plight of overtaxed hospitals and smaller clinics – and health care in general – is one of the most worrying for officials grappling with recovery efforts." The AP says the Department of Health and Human Services has sent a team to Puerto Rico, while the US Navy "also dispatched the USNS Comfort, a hospital ship that has been deployed during previous disasters such as the 2010 Haiti earthquake."

More Coverage. Hurricane Maria Power Outage Puts Old, Vulnerable At Risk In Puerto Rico (Reuters, 9/30, Dave Graham)

Health Reform, Marketplaces & Healthcare:

'LITTLE LOBBYISTS' HELP SAVE THE HEALTH CARE LAW, FOR NOW

New York Times (9/30, Robert Pear)

The article details how "some of the most effective advocacy" opposing the Obamacare repeal came from "children with serious medical needs who told their stories to members of Congress." According to lawmakers, "what really sank the legislation was the outpouring from constituents," not lobbying efforts from major organizations, the piece adds. House Minority Leader Pelosi said the children "have made all the difference in the world," while Sen. Time Kaine said, "These kids and their parents demonstrated how catastrophic the Medicaid cuts would be. They really added value to this debate and helped us win."

EX-MEDICARE HEAD SAYS TRUMP 'PURPOSELY' RAISING INSURANCE PREMIUMS The Hill (9/30, John Bowden)

Former Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator Andy Slavitt is accusing President Trump of "purposely raising" healthcare premiums in an attempt to make Obamacare "Implode." The claim, according to the Hill, comes in response to Oklahoma's health commissioner blaming the Administration for missing a deadline to approve a waiver for the state, which he said would "prevent thousands of Oklahomans from realizing the benefits of significantly lower insurance premiums in 2018."

TRUMP OFFICIALS DELAY PRICE-GOUGING RULE FOR DRUG COMPANIES

The Hill (9/30, John Bowden)

The Department of Health and Human Services on Thursday delayed the implementation of a rule that would punish drug companies for price gouging to next July. The rule, which would have gone into effect on Sunday, would mandate fines of "up to \$5,000 for each instance of overcharging." In a statement on the decision, an agency spokesman said, "HHS continues to believe that the delay of the effective date provides regulated entities sufficient time to implement the requirements of the rule, as well as allowing a more deliberate process of considering alternative and supplemental regulatory provisions, and to allow for sufficient time for additional rule-making."

Sanders Criticizes Trump On Healthcare. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I) appeared on CNN's State Of The Union (10/1, Tapper) was asked about an executive order on healthcare that President Trump is likely to sign next week that will allow people to buy health insurance across state lines. Sanders said he would not support that decision. Sanders said, "What we should be doing now and what I would hope Trump would be doing is during the campaign, he talked about the high cost of prescription drugs...Pharmaceutical industry is ripping off the American people." However, "since he has been elected, I haven't heard one word."

Sanders Touts Medicare For All. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I) was asked on <u>ABC's This Week with George Stephanopoulos</u> (10/1) about his medicare for all plan. Sanders said, "Well, let me just say that the idea of a medicare for all, the idea that the United States of America should join every other major country on earth in guaranteeing health care to every man, woman, and child,



this is not a radical idea." He said that medicare was the most popular program in the country and he argued for expanding it "to everybody."

FEDERAL JUDGE BLOCKS FLORIDA ABORTION LAW

Associated Press (9/30)

US District Judge Robert L. Hinkle on Friday blocked a Florida law requiring "people and groups that provide abortion advice to register with the state and furnish women with a detailed explanation of the procedure and alternatives." In his decision, the judge said that such advice would be protected by the First Amendment, barring the state from requiring registration and fees.

GOVERNMENT JOBS SPROUTING AS LEGAL POT LOOMS IN CALIFORNIA

Associated Press (9/30, Michael R. Blood)

The state of California "is on a hiring binge" for positions related to the state's emerging recreational marijuana industry, "from keeping watch on what's seeping into streams near cannabis grows to running background checks on storefront sellers who want government licenses." In January, California will create "what will be the United States' largest legal pot economy" when it unites its medical cannabis industry "with the newly legalized recreational one." The state's Bureau of Cannabis Control "expects to have more than 100 staffers" by February, and local governments are expected to add many more.

Opioid News:

CBP SEIZES RECORD AMOUNT OF SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS THIS YEAR

The CBS Weekend News (9/30)

US Customs and Border Patrol officials seized a record amount of synthetic opioids this year, with most "found in the mail room at New York's JFK airport," where the number of shipments has tripled since last year. The segment detailed how officers go about finding "hundreds of millions of dollars" of drugs in shipped packages, noting that nearly all of the shipments have come from China.

Blogs:

FAILURE TO APPROVE OKLAHOMA WAIVER UNDERMINES TRUST BETWEEN HHS AND STATES

Health Affairs (9/30, Joel Ario)

The managing director at Manatt Health asserts that by "failing to follow through on repeated assurances to Oklahoma that its 1332 reinsurance waiver would be approved on an expedited timeline, the federal government dealt a devastating blow to Oklahoma consumers and magnified suspicions that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is more interested in undermining the Affordable Care Act than partnering with the states to stabilize the individual market for the nearly 20 million Americans who depend on that market for their health security." He concludes by expressing hope that "no other state has to endure what Oklahoma did this week."

Opinion:

THE OPPORTUNITY IN TOM PRICE'S RESIGNATION

Washington Post (9/30)

The editorial says the resignation of Tom Price as health and human services secretary has "ended an inglorious and brief tenure" and calls on President Trump to "find someone less



motivated by ideology, shift gears and work to actually improve health care for all Americans." The piece contends that "Trump suddenly has a new opportunity for a win on health care. He should take full advantage."

AMERICA'S 8-STEP PROGRAM FOR OPIOID ADDICTION

New York Times (9/30)

The editorial criticizes the Trump Administration's fight against the opioid epidemic, and provides eight suggestions "to end the despair and devastation of addiction," including some from the Administration's own Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis. The piece suggests passing "legislation to protect the responders who administer naloxone from liability;" focusing on treatment over arrest and punishment of addicts; urging more states to adopt the ACA's Medicaid expansion; fighting misconceptions about addiction and creating "tuition incentives for medical students to enter addiction-related specialties and work in underserved communities;" supporting "medication therapies like methadone, naltrexone and buprenorphine;" strictly enforcing the mental health parity law to prevent insurer abuse of addicts; federally mandating med student "training in the management of prescription opioids and prevention of their misuse;" and starting youth prevention programs. While not an "exhaustive list," the editorial concedes, the suggestions provide a path to "national recovery from the deadliest health crisis in recent history."

National Front Page News:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

New York Times:

US In Direct Communication With North Korea, Says Tillerson
One Day In The Life Of Battered Puerto Rico
After The Vote, Does The Kurdish Dream Of Independence Have A Chance?
Statue's Stolen Foot Reflects Divisions Over Symbols Of Conquest
How Two Sentences In Tax Plan May Help Unleash \$1 Billion In Lobbying

Washington Post:

No Trial For Colonel Who Sent Lewd Recordings
The New Reality Of Old Age In America
Should They Go Back?
Trump's Newest Target? A Mayor.
A Promised Presidency Proves Hard To Live Up To
Parents In Catalonia Occupy Voting Sites

This copy of the HHS Secretary's News Briefing was sent to you because you are registered for email notification on our <u>website</u>. If you would like to cancel email delivery click <u>here</u>.

Copyright 2017 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's terms of use. Services including embedded Tweets are also subject to Twitter for Website's information and privacy policies. The HHS Secretary's News Briefing is published seven days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at BulletinIntelligence.com, or called at (703) 483-6100.



From:Bulletin IntelligenceSent:5 Oct 2017 05:59:44 -0400To:HHS@BulletinIntelligence.com

Subject: HHS Secretary's News Briefing for Thursday, October 05, 2017

HHS SECRETARY'S NEWS BRIEFING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2017 6:00 AM EDT

Top National Stories:

PARTIES FIGHT OVER FUNDING CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE

Associated Press (10/4, Alan Fram)

The AP reports that on Wednesday, a "divided" House Energy and Commerce Committee disagreed "over how to pay for an extension of" the Children's Health Insurance Program, "suggesting that congressional approval will take time despite growing pressure on lawmakers to act." CHIP, which covers about 8.9 million children, has bipartisan support. The article says Democratic members of the panel opposed GOP cuts which "include trimming a public health fund established under" the ACA, "and making it harder for people buying individual health coverage to avoid paying premiums." In addition, GOP lawmakers want to increase Medicare premiums for seniors who earn more than \$500,000 annually.

More Coverage. AARP Criticizes Medicare Measures In CHIP Bill (The Hill, 10/4, Rachel Roubein), Funding Roils Talks On Bipartisan Children's Insurance Program (Washington Examiner, 10/4), Bill To Rescue Children's Health Program Hits Snag In House (New York Times, 10/4, Robert Pear), House Panel Advances Children's Insurance Program Bill After Tense Hearing (Washington Examiner, 10/4), Children's Health-Care Bill Faces New Obstacles (The Hill, 10/4, Peter Sullivan)

STATES WORRY FEDERAL FUNDING FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROGRAM WON'T COME IN TIME

Wall Street Journal (10/4, Michelle Hackman)

The Wall Street Journal reports that increasingly, states are worried Congress will not reauthorize funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program before they are compelled to end coverage for needy children. The article says a House panel and a Senate panel approved CHIP measures on Wednesday, but House GOP lawmakers included several provisions which seek to cut ACA funding, and some analysts are concerned this could make it difficult to negotiate with Democrats. Meanwhile, some states could pay the price if there is conflict, given that a poll conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation found that 10 states could deplete their CHIP funding by December.

DEMOCRATS: SENATE BUDGET CUTS NEARLY \$500B FROM MEDICARE

Politico (10/4, Sarah Ferris)

Politico reports that GOP senators "are proposing to slash Medicare spending by \$473 billion over a decade, once again diverging from one of President Donald Trump's key campaign promises," Democrats on the Senate Budget Committee said in Politico's words. The Democrats, led by Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT), revealed that figure in a new analysis. The article says while "the cuts would occur under the fiscal 2018 budget resolution Senate Republicans unveiled last week, the details are not outlined in any public documents the GOP has released so far." Under the plan, \$5.071 trillion would be cut from domestic programs over 10 years, but there is no information about which programs will be impacted, although Democrats contend Medicaid could lose about \$1 trillion, and the NIH about \$37 billion.

More Coverage. Senate Dems Allege Budget Cuts Over \$470b From Medicare (The Hill, 10/4, Nathaniel Weixel and Niv Ellis), AARP Urges House To Reject Medicare Budget Cuts (The Hill,



10/4, Nathaniel Weixel), Chuck Schumer And Nancy Pelosi Call On Trump To Oppose GOP Budget Over Medicare, Medicaid Cuts (Washington Examiner, 10/4), Bernie Sanders: GOP Budget Would Gut Medicare, Medicaid, Other Key Programs (Vox, 10/4), Congressional Democrats Slam Republican Budget Plan (Washington Times, 10/4, David Sherfinski)

Health Reform, Marketplaces & Healthcare:

SENATE CONFIRMS NO. 2 SPOT AT HHS, DAYS AFTER PRICE RESIGNS

The Hill (10/4, Rachel Roubein)

The Hill reports that on Wednesday, the Senate confirmed Eric Hargan as Deputy HHS Secretary by a vote of 57-38 which was "largely along party lines." The article says seven Democratic senators and Sen. Angus King (I-ME) joined Republicans in voting for Hargan. The piece adds that Hargan's confirmation comes on the heels of former HHS Secretary Tom Price's resignation last week, which means President Trump must find a replacement.

More Coverage. Senate Approves Trump's Nominee For Second-in-command At HHS (Washington Examiner, 10/4)

HOUSE DEMS: SHOW US EX-HEALTH CHIEF'S CHECK FOR CHARTERS

Associated Press (10/4)

The AP reports House Democrats want the Trump Administration to provide evidence that former HHS Secretary Tom Price "wrote a check to reimburse taxpayers for his government-paid travel on private charters." Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD), who is the ranking member on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, wrote to HHS and the Treasury Department asking for proof of Price's payment.

More Coverage. Former HHS Head Tom Price Promised To Repay Taxpayers For His Private Plane Travel, But Did He Write The Check? (Fierce Healthcare, 10/4), Top Democrat Asks Treasury Dept For Copy Of Tom Price's Check For Private Flights (CBS News, 10/4), Democrat Seeks Proof Tom Price Wrote Check To Cover Travel (CNN, 10/4, Cristina Alesci)

A TOP HOUSE DEMOCRAT BEARS DOWN ON TRUMP AIDE KELLYANNE CONWAY'S CHARTER-JET TRAVEL

Washington Post (10/4, Lisa Rein)

The Washington Post reports that on Wednesday, Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD), the ranking member on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, "asked the White House for details about private charter jet trips that counselor to the president Kellyanne Conway took with" former HHS Secretary Tom Price. In the letter, Cummings "asked Conway to provide documentation of all noncommercial flights she has taken, including where they left from and landed, a list of passengers and the full cost of each flight, in addition to her seat."

More Coverage. Cummings Demands Documents About Conway's Flights With Price (The Hill, 10/4, Nathaniel Weixel), Cummings Questions White House About Conway's Private Jet Travels (Politico, 10/4, Rachana Pradhan), House Democrat Demands Data On Kellyanne Conway's Use Of Private, Military Planes (Washington Examiner, 10/4, Melissa Quinn), Top Democrat Questions Kellyanne Conway's Air Travel (ABC News, 10/4, Benjamin Siegel), House Investigator Asks Kellyanne Conway For Information About Her Taking Private Flights With Tom Price (Newsweek, 10/4, Max Kutner)

EX-OBAMA OFFICIALS BEGIN HEALTH INSURANCE SIGN-UP CAMPAIGN

Associated Press (10/4, Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar)

The AP reports that former Obama Administration officials are embarking on "a private campaign to encourage people to sign up for coverage next year under the Affordable Care Act." They "said their campaign, set to begin Wednesday, will focus on young adults and try to encourage people to sign up for government-backed private health insurance because of subsidies available to cushion the impact of rising premiums." Lori Lodes and Joshua Peck, "who directed outreach and



sign-up efforts during much of former President Barack Obama's second term," are spearheading this initiative. Former Acting CMS Administrator Andy Slavitt, activist-actors Alyssa Milano and Bradley Whitford, social commentator Van Jones, and insurance industry veteran Mario Molina are also joining the effort.

More Coverage. Obama Officials Start Healthcare Enrollment Group (Washington Examiner, 10/4), Former Health Officials, Celebrities, Molina Ex-CEO Team Up To Promote Open Enrollment (Fierce Healthcare, 10/4), Ex-Obama Officials Launch Campaign To Promote Obamacare Signups (Washington Times, 10/4, Tom Howell Jr.), These People Won't Let Obamacare Die (NBC News, 10/4), The Group Reviving Obamacare | The Daily Caller (Daily Caller, 10/4)

SENATE PANEL OKS BIPARTISAN CHILDREN'S HEALTH BILL

Associated Press (10/4, Alan Fram)

The AP reports that on Wednesday, the Senate Finance Committee "easily" approved a measure to reauthorize funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program "as pressure grew on Congress to act." The article says since passage by the full Senate "is probably inevitable, lawmakers from both parties are lining up to attach pet provisions to it, such as increasing federal aid to hospitals or helping insurers curb growing premiums."

More Coverage. Senate Panel Votes To Reauthorize Expired Children's Health Program (Washington Examiner, 10/4), Senate Finance Committee Quickly Passes CHIP Bill (Modern Healthcare, 10/4)

SCHUMER CALLS FOR ATTACHING OBAMACARE FIX TO CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE

The Hill (10/4, Peter Sullivan)

The Hill reports that on Wednesday, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) "called for provisions to stabilize ObamaCare to be combined with a bill reauthorizing the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)." The article says this is an attempt "to provide a vehicle for bipartisan ObamaCare provisions to pass the Senate, but it also could complicate negotiations on extending CHIP, which Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) wanted to keep as a clean bill."

More Coverage. Chuck Schumer Calls For CHIP To Be Added To Obamacare Stabilization Bill (Washington Examiner, 10/4), Schumer To GOP: Stabilize Obamacare Through Must-pass CHIP Bill (Washington Times, 10/4, Tom Howell Jr.)

HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETPLACES: LOOKING FORWARD TO 2018

Bloomberg Business (10/4)

Bloomberg Business reports that despite attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act, the "marketplaces will open as planned on Nov. 1." The article says while several counties had faced the possibility of coverage gaps, ultimately, "all those potential bare counties were filled." The piece adds that the Trump Administration has "repeatedly threatened" to end ACA subsidy payments to insurers, but to date, "the administration has continued to make these payments," although "the uncertainty has shaken insurers." As a result of this uncertainty, many insurers have raised rates significantly, or exited ACA marketplaces.

OBAMACARE SIGN-UP CHALLENGE: PROVING THE LAW IS NOT DEAD

Reuters (10/4)

Reuters reports that President Trump's "threats to let Obamacare collapse are sowing confusion about its fate and dampening 2018 enrollment expectations." The article says the growing uncertainty in Arizona and other states indicates that although the GOP has failed to repeal the ACA, "the Republican effort to undermine it is gaining traction." The piece adds that interviews with various groups reveal that because of Republicans' vow "to keep trying until they succeed" in repealing the healthcare law, "consumers are increasingly hesitant to sign up" for ACA coverage



next year.

STATE HEALTH CONNECTOR WARNS PREMIUMS COULD SOAR NEXT YEAR

Boston Globe (10/4, Priyanka Dayal McCluskey)

The Boston Globe reports health insurance premiums for the 80,000 Massachusetts residents who buy coverage on the state's Health Connector may rise 24 percent on average if the Trump Administration stops paying cost-sharing reductions and 8.7 percent if it continues making the payments, according to state officials on Wednesday. The Globe says that the "contrasting scenarios reflect the difficult position in which Massachusetts finds itself as uncertainty over the future of health policy in Washington threatens to cause further turmoil across health insurance markets nationwide." Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker (R) wrote the state's congressional delegation this week to say, "It is critical for federal cost sharing reduction payments to be resolved affirmatively in order to maintain market stability and to constrain rate increases." The article adds that if the government stops making the payments, rates could increase dramatically mid-year.

More Coverage. Massachusetts Health Insurance Price Spikes Riding On Fate Of Federal Subsidies (Springfield (MA) Republican, 10/4)

TWO MEASURES TO BOOST OBAMACARE IN CALIFORNIA SIGNED INTO LAW BY GOV. JERRY BROWN

Los Angeles Times (10/4)

The Los Angeles Times reports California Gov. Jerry Brown (D) signed two bills Wednesday to assist Californians who get their health insurance from Covered California, the state's ACA marketplace. One measure adds time to the enrollment period "in order to give Californians adequate time to sign up for coverage," after the Trump Administration shortened the enrollment period to 45 days. The second ensures "continuity of care" for people whose insurers left the market, allowing them to continue to see their physicians for up to one year.

HOUSE DEMOCRATS PLEAD FOR RIGHT OF RESIDENTS TO SUE NURSING HOMES

The Hill (10/4, Rachel Roubein)

The Hill reports 46 Democratic legislators in the US House are lobbying the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to permit nursing home residents sue facilities, writing in a letter to CMS Administrator Seema Verma that facility arbitration agreement "clauses are buried in the fine print of voluminous nursing home admission contracts and typically only accepted because they are unnoticed." The Democratic lawmakers "pointed to the nursing home in Florida" where 12 residents died as an example to state that the "horrific reports of abuse...underscore the need for your agency to reconsider upending the legal protections" of residents. The article notes "the American Health Care Association and a group of nursing homes had sued CMS over the" Obama administration arbitration "rule, alleging that it violated the Federal Arbitration Act."

FEDERAL EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS TO RISE BY 6.1 PERCENT

Washington Post (10/4, Joe Davidson)

The Washington Post reports in its "PowerPost" blog that the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) said Wednesday that health insurance premiums for federal employees and retirees will increase 6.1 percent in 2018. The Federal Employees Health Benefits Program covers 8.3 million people. The government's portion of the premiums will increase by an average of 3.2 percent. Together, the "average overall increase, including the employer and employee share, will rise by 4 percent in 2018, compared to 4.4 percent last year."

NAVY OFFICER FIGHTS FOR RIGHT TO TRY UNPROVEN DRUGS BEFORE DYING

Bloomberg News (10/4, Michelle Cortez)

Bloomberg News reports 30-year-old US Navy veteran Matt Bellina, diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease in 2012, is leading an initiative to pass a "Right to Try" bill aimed at easing access to experimental treatments for terminally ill patients. The article says that although "Right to Try" seems to be "a no-brainer," with vocal support coming from the Senate and the White House, at a



hearing at the House on Tuesday FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb said such legislation should be limited to patients expected to die within a few months, adding, "The biggest obstacle to offering drugs through expanded access is supply constraints." Some critics say that Right to Try legislation would not augment the existing "compassionate use" system because the FDA and legislators are not able to require companies to make experimental treatments available.

<u>HURRICANE DAMAGE IN PUERTO RICO LEADS TO FEARS OF DRUG SHORTAGES</u> NATIONWIDE

New York Times (10/4, Katie Thomas And Sheila Kaplan)

On its front page, the New York Times reports federal officials, as well as manufacturers of pharmaceuticals and medical devices, are concerned about potential shortages following the devastation caused by a hurricane to Puerto Rico, which is a major manufacturer of both types of products. The Times reports that there are over 80 plants on Puerto Rico that manufacture pharmaceuticals or medical devices, but that manufacturers are facing many problems including unreliable electricity, transportation issues, and so on. On Tuesday, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Federal Emergency Management Agency met with industry leaders to discuss the problems. The article also notes that earlier in the week, FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb told Congress, "Some of these products are critical to Americans. A loss of access could have significant public health consequences."

THIS FORMER SURGEON GENERAL SAYS THERE'S A 'LONELINESS EPIDEMIC' AND WORK IS PARTLY TO BLAME

Washington Post (10/4, Jena McGregor)

The Washington Post reports former surgeon general Vivek H. Murthy says that there is a "loneliness epidemic" in the US, and that the workplace is a major factor. The article reports that "in a new cover story in the Harvard Business Review, Murthy treats loneliness like a public health crisis, and the workplace as one of the primary places where it can get better – or worse."

Opioid News:

WALGREENS EXPANDS MEDICATION DISPOSAL TO 1,500 STORES IN OPIOID BATTLE

Forbes (10/4, Bruce Japsen)

In a piece for Forbes, contributor Bruce Japsen writes, "Walgreens Boots Alliance will expand the number of safe medication disposal kiosks across the country to 1,500 stores, specifically targeting locations near 'military bases and other areas where the opioid epidemic has challenged communities," the company announced on Oct. 4. According to Japsen, "Walgreens is the latest healthcare company to step up efforts to combat the abuse and misuse of the overprescribed" pain medications.

NORTHEAST TEXAS COUNTY BECOMES FIRST IN STATE TO SUE PHARMA COMPANIES OVER OPIOID CRISIS

Dallas Morning News (10/4, Sabriya Rice)

The Dallas Morning News reports that Upshur County in Texas "is suing more than a dozen pharmaceutical companies for their alleged role in opioid addiction." The lawsuit, which was announced Oct. 4, was "filed Sept. 29 in the US District Court in Marshall." Named in the suit are "Purdue Pharma, Johnson and Johnson, Teva Pharmaceutical, Abbott Laboratories, Allergan, Pfizer, and McKesson as defendants, among others." The lawsuit contends, in the News' words, that these "companies used deceptive marketing practices to tout the benefits of opioids for chronic pain, including using third parties who were seemingly independent but were actually funded by the companies."

More Coverage. Texas County Sues Drug Companies Amid Opioid Crisis (Houston Chronicle, 10/4, Robert Downen)

Blogs:



REPUBLICAN BUDGET WOULD DECIMATE MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

Think Progress (10/4, Addy Baird)

Addy Baird writes for Think Progress that Senate Republicans are "still trying to cut Medicaid and Medicare funding by more than \$1 trillion over the next decade, according to a new report prepared by the Senate Budget Committee minority staff led by Sen. Bernie Sanders." The proposed fiscal year 2018 budget "would cut \$1 trillion from Medicaid and \$473 billion from Medicare over the next decade," amounting to up to \$5 trillion.

OBAMACARE STABILIZATION TALKS LANGUISH IN CONGRESS AS RATE HIKES HIT STATES

Talking Points Memo (10/4, Alice Ollstein)

Alice Ollstein writes for Talking Points Memo that many health insurers have requested double-digit premium increases for their ACA plans in 2018, while bipartisan efforts to reform and stabilize the ACA are "languishing" in the Senate. Tennessee Sen. Lamar Alexander, whose state's two insurers requested 36.5 percent (Cigna) and 21 percent (BlueCross BlueShield) rate hikes, said of the negotiations with Sen. Patty Murray, "We're trying to find not just an agreement between the two of us, because that won't do anything. ... We're trying to find a significant number of Republicans and Democrats who can agree on a limited, bipartisan plan to stabilize the market in 2018 and 2019."

AS TRUMP ADMIN ROLLS BACK O'CARE OUTREACH, NEW GROUP TRIES TO FILL THE GAP

Talking Points Memo (10/4, Alice Ollstein)

Alice Ollstein writes for Talking Points Memo that a group of "Obama administration alumni, celebrities, and health insurance industry leaders" is launching an outreach campaign called "Get America Covered" to "spread the word about this November's Obamacare open enrollment period." Former chief marketing officer for the Department of Health and Human Services, Josh Peck, "says the effort is meant to help mitigate the damage of the Trump administration's gutting of Affordable Care Act outreach, severing of outreach partnerships, and shortening of the open enrollment period."

Opinion:

SEX, SANCTIMONY AND CONGRESS

New York Times (10/5, Gail Collins)

Gail Collins writes in a New York Times op-ed about hypocrisy in Congress, citing cases of GOP lawmakers who publicly opposed abortion, but who asked their significant others to undergo the procedure. She says "the most effective way to fight against late-term abortions would obviously be programs like teen pregnancy prevention," providing low-income women with the ability to afford contraceptives, and enabling "easy access to clinics like Planned Parenthood that offer both health services and counseling on effective birth control." Collins adds that the Trump Administration is attempting to defund such programs, and when former HHS Secretary Tom Price "wasn't busy flying around in private planes, he was waging war on federal services that are targeted at stopping unwanted pregnancies."

IOWA, WHERE THE ACA IS FAILING MASSIVELY, TRIES A CREATIVE BUT UNLAWFUL FIX

Forbes (10/4, Seth Chandler)

Seth Chandler writes in an opinion piece in the Forbes "The Apothecary" blog that Iowa is struggling under the Affordable Care Act and has developed the Iowa Stopgap Measure to address some of the problems. Chandler argues that that measure "helps upper middle class Iowans afford health insurance," but "it illegally deprives poorer Iowans of the ability to make use of health insurance."

THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET REVEALS THAT THEIR TAX PLAN IS TRUMPCARE IN



REVERSE

Huffington Post (10/4, Nancy Altman)

Nancy Altman, the president of Social Security Works, writes in an opinion piece in the Huffington Post that "having failed to pass a bill that would have taken away health care from tens of millions of Americans to give a giant tax cut to the wealthy, Republicans are now trying to do the same thing in reverse." Altman argues that Republicans' "tax reform" bill would include "an enormous tax giveaway to billionaires and giant, profitable corporations," which would "increase the deficit, which in turn will provide the GOP with an excuse to demand cuts to Medicare and Medicaid."

CONGRESS IS EXPLOITING ITS OWN NEGLECT TO BARGAIN OVER CHIP'S RENEWAL

The Hill (10/4, Dr. Eugene Gu)

Dr. Eugene Gu, a resident physician at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center, writes in The Hill that the "failed Graham-Cassidy bill...distracted Congress from renewing the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)" because "Lawmakers were literally too busy trying to strip health care from 32 million Americans and patients with pre-existing conditions to renew coverage for vulnerable children in working class families." The House Republicans' bill to fund CHIP "disproportionately hurts low income Americans who live paycheck to paycheck" because it is funded by "shortening the payment grace period for ACA marketplace premiums from 90 to 30 days," cuts \$5.5 billion from the ACA's "prevention and public health fund," and cuts "another \$4 billion by adjusting Medicaid's third party liability policy." Dr. Gu says it is "unconscionable" and "almost shocking" that Republicans are using the "sense of urgency that they themselves created to make cuts to both the ACA and Medicare."

FEDS SHOULD THINK TWICE BEFORE TRYING TO REDUCE NICOTINE IN CIGARETTES

The Hill (10/4, Carrie Wade)

In an opinion piece for The Hill, Dr. Carrie Wade, harm reduction policy manager for the R Street Institute, writes that it is "bothersome that there has been essentially no discussion to date about whether" FDA Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb's proposal to reduce nicotine in cigarettes "would be ethical." Wade cites studies to argue that the policy's effectiveness in helping smokers quit "remains open to question." She also argues that "those in public health also must carefully balance coercive measures with personal liberties."

ANOTHER NOBEL PRIZE FOR THE FRUIT FLY

New York Times (10/4, David Bilder)

David Bilder writes in the New York Times to advocate for the continued support of "curiosity-driven" scientific research such that of recently-named Nobel Prize winners Jeffrey C. Hall, Michael Rosbash, and Michael Young, who received the award for identifying "molecular pathways that control the circadian cycle." Bilder criticizes President Trump's "proposed budget cuts of 22 percent for the National Institutes of Health," saying the institute is one of two that "fund most basic biological research in the United States." He also argues that some research, such as that into the biological patterns of the fruit fly, can unlock new discoveries for innovative disease treatments in humans.

REPEAL THE SECOND AMENDMENT

New York Times (10/5, Bret Stephens)

Bret Stephens writes in a column for the New York Times that he has "never understood the conservative fetish for the Second Amendment" because "more guns means more murder" and "more guns means less safety." After examining the arguments typically raised by conservatives, Stephens says "liberals keep losing the gun control debate" because "they argue their case badly and – let's face it – in bad faith" by "routinely" professing "their fidelity to the Second Amendment." He concludes that the proposals on gun control "tinker at the margins" and that there "is only one way" to address the problem: "Repeal the Second Amendment."

National Front Page News:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.



Wall Street Journal:

Mystery Deepens On Las Vegas Shooter's Motive
Russian Spy Tactic: Hack Smartphones Of NATO Soldiers
Another Thing Amazon Is Disrupting: MBA Recruiting
Trade's Test Case: Your Washing Machine

New York Times:

Hurricane Damage In Puerto Rico Leads To Fears Of Drug Shortages Nationwide
Las Vegas Gunman Chased Gambling's Payouts And Perks
Republicans Open To Banning 'Bump Stocks' Used In Massacre
Inside The Las Vegas Gunman's Hotel Suite
Tillerson's News Conference Only Highlights Strains With Trump
Brian Bowen's Path To Louisville: A Federal Case Study

Washington Post:

Casinos Were A Second Home For A Frequent Gambler
For Those Returning To Cars, Quiet Belies Still-Fresh Terror
Tillerson Assures Trump He's Loyal
Northam Leads Gillespie By 13 Points, Poll Finds
What Trump Didn't See In Puerto Rico
No Warning, Gunman's Girlfriend Says

This copy of the HHS Secretary's News Briefing was sent to you because you are registered for email notification on our website. If you would like to cancel email delivery click here.

Copyright 2017 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's terms of use. Services including embedded Tweets are also subject to Twitter for Website's information and privacy policies. The HHS Secretary's News Briefing is published seven days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at BulletinIntelligence.com, or called at (703) 483-6100.



From: Bulletin Intelligence

Sent: 26 Oct 2017 06:00:26 -0400 **To:** HHS@BulletinIntelligence.com

Subject: HHS Secretary's News Briefing for Thursday, October 26, 2017

HHS SECRETARY'S NEWS BRIEFING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2017 6:00 AM EDT

Top National Stories:

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION WON'T BE FORCED TO PROVIDE HEALTH-INSURANCE SUBSIDIES

Wall Street Journal (10/25, Brent Kendall And Stephanie Armour)

The Wall Street Journal reports a federal district court judge in California will not order the Trump Administration to continue paying insurance companies for low-income consumers' out-of-pocket costs under Affordable Care Act exchange plans. The President announced earlier this month that the federal government would not make the \$7 billion in payments in 2017, sparking a lawsuit by 18 Democratic-led states and the District of Columbia to force the payments. Judge Vince Chhabria, sitting in San Francisco, found that the states were not likely to succeed in their case and would not order the Administration to continue paying.

More Coverage. Federal Judge Rules Trump Can End Health Insurance Cost Sharing Subsidies (USA Today, 10/25, Jayne O'Donnell), Judge Denies Request To Force Trump To Pay Obamacare Insurance Subsidies (Politico, 10/25, Victoria Colliver And Adriel Bettelheim), Judge Won't Force Trump To Keep Making ObamaCare Payments (The Hill, 10/25, Nathaniel Weixel), Obamacare Judge Refuses To Restore Payments Halted By Trump (Bloomberg News, 10/25, Joel Rosenblatt Andrew M Harris), Judge Rejects Bid By 18 States To Revive Obamacare Subsidies (Reuters, 10/25, Dan Levine And Lawrence Hurley), Judge Rejects Bid To Force Trump To Resume Obamacare Payments To Insurers (Washington Examiner, 10/25, Robert King), Judge Denies California's Bid To Reinstate Affordable Care Act Subsidies (San Francisco Chronicle, 10/26, Catherine Ho), Federal Judge Rules Trump Can End Cost-sharing Subsidies (Modern Healthcare, 10/25), Judge Refuses To Block Trump's Order To End Obamacare Subsidies (Los Angeles Times, 10/25, Maura Dolan), Trump Will Not Continue Obamacare Payments For Poor Americans, Judge Rules (Newsweek, 10/25, Nicole Goodkind), States Lose Push To Force Trump To Restart Health Subsidies (Associated Press, 10/26, Sudhin Thanawala), Federal Judge Denies Dem AG's Request To Force Obamacare Payments (Washington Times, 10/25)

UNDOCUMENTED TEENAGER OBTAINS ABORTION AFTER COURT VICTORY

New York Times (10/25, Manny Fernandez)

The New York Times reports that "a pregnant undocumented teenager in federal custody whose attempt to have an abortion set off a month-long legal battle with the Trump administration terminated her pregnancy on Wednesday morning," a day after a court ruling "forced federal officials to allow it."

More Coverage. Legal Battle Ends: Detained Immigrant Obtains An Abortion (Los Angeles Times, 10/25), Undocumented Teen Gets Abortion That Trump Administration Tried To Block (The Hill, 10/25, Lydia Wheeler), Undocumented Teen Obtains Abortion After Court Battle (Politico, 10/25, Renuka Rayasam), The Founding Fathers Would Have Hated Giving Undocumented Aliens Abortion Rights, But Here We Are (Washington Examiner, 10/25), ACLU: Teen At Center Of Immigration Case Has Abortion (Associated Press, 10/25, Jessica Gresko And Nomaan Merchant), Undocumented Immigrant Teen Has Abortion Ending Weeks-long Court Battle (Washington Post, 10/25, Ann E. Marimow And Maria Sacchetti), Undocumented Teen



Receives Abortion That Trump Administration Tried To Block (New York Daily News, 10/25), Illegal Immigrant Minor Gets Abortion (Washington Times, 10/25, Alex Swover), Pro-Lifers Decry Illegal Immigrant Teen's Abortion (Washington Free Beacon, 10/25, Bill McMorris), Emotions Are High After The Government Provided Abortion To Illegal Immigrant (Daily Caller, 10/25, Grace Carr), Undocumented Teen's Abortion Re-energizes Legal Debate (USA Today, 10/25, Richard Wolf), Jane Doe Abortion: Pro-Choice Movement Cheers (National Review, 10/25, Alexandra DeSanctis), 'Jane Doe' Immigrant Has Abortion In Texas, After Battle With Trump Administration: The Two-Way: NPR (NPR, 10/25, Bill Chappell), ACLU Succeeds In Killing Teen's Unborn Baby (WND, 10/25), Illegal Immigrant Teen Has Abortion After Weeks Of Legal Controversy (Washington Examiner, 10/25, Ryan Lovelace), Immigrant In Federal Custody In Texas Has Abortion (Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 10/25, Chuck Lindell), 'Jane Doe' Got Her Abortion. Trump Policy Will Still Block Them For Other Immigrant Teens. (Huffington Post, 10/25), ACLU: Teen At Center Of Immigration Case Has Abortion (Associated Press, 10/25, Jessica Gresko And Nomaan Merchant), Trump's 'Pro-Life' Zealots Prolonged A Teen Girl's Suffering (Daily Beast, 10/25, Erin Gloria Ryan), Unauthorized Immigrant Minor 'Jane Doe' Has Abortion After Back-andforth Court Battle (Dallas Morning News, 10/25, Jackie Wang, Austin Bureau), Undocumented Teenager Has Abortion After Court Ruling (Wall Street Journal, 10/25, Brent Kendall)

Health Reform, Marketplaces & Healthcare:

CBO FORECASTS THAT ALEXANDER-MURRAY HEALTH-CARE PLAN WOULD SLIGHTLY LOWER DEFICIT

Washington Post (10/25, Amy Goldstein)

The Washington Post reports the Congressional Budget Office on Wednesday released its evaluation of the Alexander-Murray bill, finding that it "would lower the federal deficit by nearly \$3.8 billion during the next decade and would not affect the number of people with health insurance." It also projected "no fiscal effect" from the resumption of cost-sharing reduction payments, "because the CBO had been assuming" they would continue. Sens. Alexander and Murray responded to the evaluation by saying, "This nonpartisan analysis shows that our bill provides savings and ensures that funding two years of cost-sharing payments will benefit taxpayers and low-income Americans, not insurance companies."

More Coverage. Bipartisan Senate Health Bill Would Reduce Deficit By About \$4 Billion Over Decade (Wall Street Journal, 10/25, Stephanie Armour And Kristina Peterson), CBO: Bipartisan Health-care Bill Would Reduce Deficit By \$4B Over 10 Years (The Hill, 10/25, Jessie Hellmann), CBO: Bipartisan Obamacare Bill Would Cut Deficit, Keep Coverage Stable (Politico, 10/25, Adam Cancryn And Jennifer Haberkorn), Obamacare Stabilization Plan Would Have Little Effect On Premiums, Insurance Rates (Washington Examiner, 10/25, Kimberly Leonard), Bipartisan Obamacare Bill Saves Little Money On Technicality (Bloomberg News, 10/25, Zachary Tracer And Erik Wasson), Bipartisan Obamacare Fix Would Cut U.S. Deficit: Nonpartisan Analysis (Reuters, 10/25, Yasmeen Abutaleb), Alexander-Murray Obamacare Stabilization Bill Would Reduce The Deficit, CBO Says (CNN, 10/25, Tami Luhby), CBO: Bipartisan Bill To Stabilize Insurance Would Reduce Budget Deficit (Modern Healthcare, 10/25, Harris Meyer), CBO: Bipartisan Bill To Stabilize Obamacare Would Save Taxpayer Money (USA Today, 10/25, Maureen Groppe), Bipartisan Health Bill Would Produce Modest Savings, Budget Office Projects (New York Times, 10/25, Robert Pear), Bipartisan Obamacare-payment Deal Would Save Nearly \$4 Billion, CBO Says (Washington Times, 10/25, Tom Howell Jr.), Bipartisan Healthcare Bill Would Reduce ObamaCare Premiums (New York Post, 10/25, Marisa Schultz)

THE HEALTH 202: TRUMP IS NOW THE ONE HOLDING UP A HEALTH-CARE BILL

Washington Post (10/25, Paige Winfield Cunningham)

The Washington Post reports that after Tuesday's lunch with the President, Senate Republicans "emerged just as confused and disorganized as ever." Sen. Mike Rounds (R-SD) said, "He just encouraged us to continue to work on it. He made it clear that he appreciated what Sen. Alexander was doing." Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) said, "My sense of things is that a growing number of senators of both parties are coming to the conclusion that we're going to need to do



something before the end of the year." The Post adds that some Republican senators "are having a hard time reconciling themselves to passing a bill that props up the marketplaces which they spent most of the year trying to erase in several ACA repeal bills." HealthcareFierce reports that because of President "Trump's unclear signals" the Alexander-Murray bill is "on the back burner as the GOP focuses on other issues." Trump on Tuesday "thanked" Alexander, "but he stopped short of endorsing it." Then the meeting turned to "tax reform, not healthcare." The President's failure to endorse the bill has "robbed it of momentum."

More Coverage. U.S. Lawmakers Will Not Tackle Healthcare This Year, Ryan Says: Reuters Interview (Reuters, 10/25, Richard Cowan And Doina Chiacu), Lacking Clear Trump Support, Alexander-Murray Bill Loses Steam (Fierce Healthcare, 10/25, Leslie Small)

SOME AFFORDABLE CARE ACT PREMIUMS SET TO JUMP FOR 2018

Wall Street Journal (10/25, Anna Wilde Mathews)

The Wall Street Journal reports on Wednesday, HealthCare.gov released new information about health insurance plans available in the open enrollment period starting November 1. According to Avalere Health, which analyzed the information for the 39 states which use HealthCare.gov, premiums for "silver" plans will increase by an average of 34 percent, while "bronze" plans will rise 18 percent, and "gold" plans 16 percent. Avalere attributed at least part of the increase to President Trump's decision to stop making cost-sharing reimbursement payments to insurance companies, though it also blamed uncertainties in the market. Nate Purpura, of eHealth Inc., explained that while premiums are going up for those without subsidies, those with subsidies will see those increased. The Washington Times reports "plans and premiums are now live on HealthCare.gov" so that people can "window-shop" in anticipation of open enrollment starting November 1. The range of premium changes is wide as lowans "will see a 67 percent increase, on average" while Alaskans "will see an average decrease of 22 percent."

More Coverage. Premiums Rising 34 Percent For Most Popular Health Plan (Associated Press, 10/25, Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar), Obamacare Premiums To Rise An Average 34 Percent (Washington Times, 10/25, Tom Howell Jr.), Analysis: Premiums For Most Popular ObamaCare Plans To Rise 34 Percent (The Hill, 10/25, Nathaniel Weixel), Obamacare Premiums To Rise By Average Of 34 Percent In 2018 (Washington Examiner, 10/25, Kimberly Leonard)

ADVOCATES STEP UP WORK AS CONFUSION SURROUNDS OBAMACARE ENROLLMENT ABC News (10/25)

ABC News reports that healthcare advocacy groups "have stepped in to help inform people of their options" during ACA open enrollment that begins November 1, after the Trump Administration's "moves to shorten the length of this year's open enrollment, cut advertising dollars and slash funding for programs that assist in enrollment." The article mentions that former Obama Administration officials created one such group, Get America Covered, to advertise and engage in outreach, including former CMS Administrator Andy Slavitt, Josh Peck, and Lori Lodes.

DEMOCRATS PITCH MEDICAID 'PUBLIC OPTION' FOR STATES

Washington Post (10/25, David Weigel)

The Washington Post reports that progressive Democrats have added "a new bill to their stack of health-care legislation – one that would allow people to buy into a Medicaid 'public option' in their states." Sen. Brian Schatz and Rep. Ben Ray Lujan have sponsored the State Public Option Act, which "would expand Medicaid from a program available only to Americans at or slightly above the poverty level, to a universal program anyone could buy into." The measure has 18 cosponsors in the Senate, "including Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and most of the party's potential 2020 presidential candidates." The Daily Caller reports Schatz said, "I think it's a golden age in terms of policy ideas when it comes to Democrats and health care." He added, "We want to make sure that people understand that we have a vision for the future." The Hill reports in its "Floor Action" blog the bill "would let states create a public option by expanding Medicaid eligibility to any individual who wants to buy into the program." The Huffington Post reports that with Schatz's proposal, "there are now three separate 'public option' proposals" from Democrats: Schatz's;



"Medicare X" proposed by Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO) and Tim Kaine (D-VA); and the Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) plan that "would allow anybody 55 or over to buy into Medicare." The Atlantic reports the Schatz plan "would allow states to set up their own public option by expanding Medicaid...to any American who wants to buy into it."

More Coverage. Democrats Introduce Public Option Health Care Bill (The Hill, 10/25, Jordain Carney), Dems Are Pushing Government-Run Health Insurance (Daily Caller, 10/25, Robert Donachie), What If Democrats Were In Charge? I'd Let People Buy Medicaid Coverage: Senator (USA Today, 10/25, Brian Schatz), Senator Brian Schatz Intros Public Option Health Care Bill (The Atlantic, 10/25, Clare Foran), Democrats Are Trying To Put The Public Option Back On The Table (Huffington Post, 10/25, Jonathan Cohn)

ANTHEM EXPECTS INDIVIDUAL HEALTH PLAN MEMBERSHIP TO FALL 70 PERCENT IN 2018

Washington Post (10/25, Carolyn Y. Johnson)

In an announcement the Washington Post calls "a further sign of how uncertainty is shaking companies' confidence" in the insurance marketplace, Anthem on Wednesday "projected a drastic 70 percent decline in individual enrollment for 2018, even as the company said it was on track to break even on the exchanges this year." The projections, "announced during an earnings call," underscored "just how much uncertainty over Obamacare, due in large part to mixed signals and last-minute changes from the White House, has shaken companies' confidence in the marketplace." Reuters reports Anthem "forecast a slight 2018 profit for the government plans," but added that "it had cut in half the number of areas where it will sell individual plans in 2018, which will reduce enrollment by 70 percent next year and help profits."

More Coverage. U.S. Insurer Anthem Says Obamacare Business Improving; Stock Jumps (Reuters, 10/25, Caroline Humer And Ankur Banerjee), Anthem Sees Big Drop In ACA Plan Enrollment Next Year (Wall Street Journal, 10/25, Anna Wilde Mathews And Cara Lombardo)

MARYLAND WILL ALLOW INSURERS TO HIKE PREMIUMS AFTER TRUMP ENDS SUBSIDIES

Washington Post (10/25, Colby Itkowitz)

The Washington Post reports the Maryland Insurance Administration approved rate increases for CareFirst Blue Cross and Kaiser Permanente "in a direct response to President Donald Trump's executive order" ending cost-sharing reduction payments. The state regulator estimated that "about 25.000 Maryland residents" would be affected should they decide to keep their current coverage. The late change comes because Maryland decided not to consider increases tied to CSRs until the President officially ended the payments, whereas the Post says that other states had acted in anticipation of the decision. CareFirst will increase the premium "by 58.2 percent for its silver HMO plan and 76 percent for its silver PPO plan," while Kaiser's silver HMO plan will rise 43.4 percent. CareFirst said that even had CSRs continued it would have had to raise rates 31.4 percent and 52.1 percent, respectively, while Kaiser would raise its silver plan premium 22.7 percent. The Baltimore Sun reports the Maryland Insurance Administration "said the majority of consumers who face rate hikes will get a separate subsidy to offset the more expensive premiums." Insurance Commissioner Al Redmer Jr. said, "Our goal was to minimize the impact on as many consumers as possible." The AP reports according to the Maryland Insurance Administration, the rises "are expected to affect roughly 96,000 people who buy silver plans through the state's health insurance exchange." The Baltimore Business Journal also carried a report.

More Coverage. Maryland Regulators Approve Higher Health Insurance Rates (Associated Press, 10/25), Maryland Approves Larger Rate Increases On Some Health Exchange Plans (Baltimore Business Journal, 10/25, Jonathan Munshaw), Maryland Insurance Regulators Increase Rates To Cover Trump Subsidy Cuts (Baltimore Sun, 10/25, Andrea K. McDaniels)

OBAMACARE RATES WILL SKYROCKET 27% IN MICHIGAN IN 2018



Detroit Free Press (10/25, J.C. Reindl)

The Detroit Free Press reports in Michigan, the average premium on the state's health insurance "exchange will jump an average 26.9%" over last year. The Free Press adds that "more than 80% of consumers in Michigan who buy insurance on the exchange do not pay full price." Insurers attributed the increase to "rising health care costs, especially for specialty drugs." Insurers also identified those "who stop paying their premiums once they've received services or procedures" and "younger people under age 26 who stay on their parents' insurance" or who do not enroll at all, "leaving older people with higher costs in the insurance pool." The Free Press adds that this year's increase "is especially big as a result of the Trump administration's recent announcement" ending cost-sharing reduction payments. The Free Press says Blue Care Network of Michigan "will raise its rates by an average 22.6%," while Blue Cross Blue Shield "will increase rates by 31.7%."

HEALTHSOURCE RI PREMIUMS TO RISE BECAUSE OF TRUMP CUTS

Providence (RI) Journal (10/25, Paul Edward Parker)

The Providence (RI) Journal reports Rhode Island health insurance commissioner Marie Ganim on Wednesday "approved premium increases, of 18 to 20 percent on some plans, for Rhode Island's Obamacare marketplace, blaming the rate hike on President Donald Trump's elimination" CSRs. The commissioner's office said "silver" plans in Rhode Island would see premium increases on average of 18 to 20 percent. Ganim said in a statement, "I want to make it very clear that the president's decision to end these payments has already created unnecessary turmoil and threatened the stability of our health insurance market." Providence (RI) Business News reports the commissioner's office said it is "working to redirect federal subsidies to offset premium increases." The AP reports HealthSource RI, the state exchange, and the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner on Wednesday called the decision ending CSRs "reckless", and said the premium increases for "include a 'Trump tax."

More Coverage. OHIC Announces New 2018 Rates In Response To Trump's CSR Cut (Providence (RI) Business News, 10/25, Chris Bergenheim), State Says New Insurance Rates Will Include A 'Trump Tax' (Associated Press, 10/25)

Opioid News:

EXCLUSIVE: TRUMP TO DECLARE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY FOR OPIOIDS, A PARTIAL MEASURE TO FIGHT DRUG EPIDEMIC (10/26, KORTE)

USA Today (10/26, Gregory Korte)

USA Today reports President Trump "will order his health secretary to declare the opioid crisis a public health emergency Thursday," but will not declare a "state of national emergency." USA adds, "Trump will sign a presidential memorandum ordering Acting Secretary of Health and Human Services Eric Hargan to waive regulations and give states more flexibility in how they use federal funds."

More Coverage: Print and Online. Trump Adds Fresh Doubts To His Promise To Declare Opioid Emergency (Los Angeles Times, 10/25, Noah Bierman), Trump Set To Declare Emergency Over Opioid Crisis, As Big Questions Linger (STAT, 10/25, Lev Facher), Advocates Hope Trump Puts Money Behind Words On Opioid Crisis (Washington Post, 10/25, Jenna Johnson And Lenny Bernstein), Christie Says Trump Likely To Declare National Emergency On Opioids Thursday (NJ News, 10/25, Claude Brodesser-Akner), Trump Pledges To Declare Opioid Emergency 'Next Week' — Again (Politico, 10/25, Cristiano Lima), Senior Health Officials In The Dark About Trump's Opioid Declaration (Politico, 10/25, Sarah Karlin-Smith And Brianna Ehley), Trump To Issue Emergency Declaration Next Week On Opioids (Reuters, 10/25), Christie Says Trump Likely To Declare National Emergency On Opioids Thursday (NJ News, 10/25), Trump To Tackle Opioid Addiction In White House Speech (Washington Post, 10/26, By Carla K. Johnson And Jill Colvin)

More Coverage: TV. Trump: We're Subsidizing World In Terms Of Prescription Drugs (Fox



Business' Lou Dobbs Tonight, 10/25)

FDA'S GOTTLIEB CALLS FOR GREATER USE OF MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT TO FIGHT OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Washington Post (10/25, Laurie McGinley)

The Washington Post reports that during a House hearing on the opioid epidemic, Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb called for greater use of medication-assisted treatment for opioid addiction. Gottlieb "said the agency will issue new guidance to manufacturers to promote the development of novel therapies, including ones that treat a wider range of symptoms." The article notes that "medication-assisted treatment (MAT) combines drugs and counseling to combat addiction." Reuters reports Gottlieb suggested that every opioid addict who suffers a non-fatal overdose should receive medication-assisted treatment for as long as necessary.

More Coverage. U.S. To Promote Use Of Opioid Alternatives To Treat Addiction (Reuters, 10/25, Toni Clarke), Gottlieb Makes Push To Fight Opioids With Medication-assisted Treatment (STAT, 10/25), FDA Aims To Destigmatize Drugs As Treatment For Opioid Addiction (Bloomberg News, 10/25, Anna Edney), FDA Commissioner Says Opioids Fight Must Tackle Stigma Around Treatment (Washington Times, 10/25, Tom Howell Jr.), FDA Commissioner Pushes For Use Of Meds To Combat Opioid Crisis (The Hill, 10/25, Jessie Hellmann), Trump's FDA Is Making A Big Push For Opioid Addiction Medications. That's Great. (Vox, 10/25), FDA Aims To Spur New Medication-assisted Treatments For Opioid Addiction (Modern Healthcare, 10/25), FDA Chief Proposes More Active Role For Agency In Combating Opioid Epidemic (Wall Street Journal, 10/25, Thomas M. Burton).

HOUSE GOP THREATENS TO SUBPOENA DEA FOR OPIOID DATA

Washington Times (10/25, Tom Howell Jr.)

The Washington Times reports that members of the House threatened to subpoena the DEA on Wednesday, "saying their patience is 'wearing thin' as they seek information about who supplied millions of pain pills to hard-hit West Virginia." Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden said it is unacceptable that he has been waiting six months for the agency to name the companies. Walden told Neil Doherty, a deputy assistant DEA administrator who testified before the panel Wednesday, "I'm going to be very blunt: my patience is wearing thin. Our requests for data from the DEA are met with delay, excuses and, frankly, inadequate response. People are dying. Lives and families are ruined. … It is time for DEA to get this committee the information we need, and to do it quickly. … No more dodges. No more delays."

More Coverage. House Panel Threatens To Subpoena DEA Over Pill Dumping In West Virginia (CNN, 10/25, Maegan Vazquez), <u>DEA Could Face Subpoena For Stonewalling Congress In Opioid Fight</u> (Daily Caller, 10/25, Steve Birr), <u>Lawmakers To DEA: Use More Legal Muscle Against Opioids</u> (Washington Post, 10/25, Lenny Bernstein, Scott Higham)

DOLLARS TARGETING OPIOIDS HIT HURDLES AS IMPATIENCE BUILDS

Associated Press (10/25, Carla K. Johnson)

The AP reports that the \$1 billion Congress approved as part of last year's 21st Century Cures Act to tackle the opioid crisis "is gradually reaching places where it can do some good, but with some setbacks and delays along the way." At a Wednesday hearing Republicans and Democrats "shared frustration as they questioned top administration officials about federal spending" to fight the opioid crisis. "It is a great opportunity, but it comes with a lot of angst," said Tom Hill of the nonprofit National Council for Behavioral Health. States have analyzed data, chosen contractors, and are "just getting programs up and running right now." The AP details state efforts, points out where some initiatives have stalled, and reports that "many state officials worry about funds drying up when the two-year grant ends."

 $\frac{\text{RHODE ISLAND DOCTOR PLEADS GUILTY TO OPIOID KICKBACK SCHEME RELATED TO}{\text{INSYS}}$



Reuters (10/25, Nate Raymond)

Reuters reports Rhode Island physician Jerrold Rosenberg pleaded guilty on Wednesday "to charges he participated in a scheme to obtain kickbacks in exchange for writing prescriptions for an addictive fentanyl-based cancer pain drug produced by Insys Therapeutics Inc." Rosenberg "schemed to receive \$188,000 in kickbacks in the form of speaker fees from Insys, which were a major factor in his decision to prescribe Subsys to patients" between 2012 and 2015. Insys in a statement said it has "taken necessary and appropriate steps to prevent past mistakes from happening in the future," while Reuters notes that federal charges against Insys have been brought in other states.

More Coverage. Doctor Admits He Took Kickbacks To Prescribe Fentanyl Spray (Associated Press, 10/25, Michelle R. Smith)

PURDUE PROBED OVER OPIOID RELIEF CLAIM

Bloomberg News (10/25, Esmé E Deprez)

Bloomberg News reports US Attorney Deirdre Daly "began a criminal investigation into Purdue Pharma Inc.'s marketing of the controversial opioid painkiller OxyContin." A Los Angeles Times investigation, published last year, "found that Purdue ignored evidence showing the drug's effects failed to last" 12 hours as claimed, "increasing the risk of withdrawal, abuse and addiction." Bloomberg reports states, cities, and counties have sued companies including Purdue, Endo International Plc, and Johnson & Johnson's Janssen Pharmaceuticals, "alleging that they triggered the epidemic by minimizing the addiction and overdose risks of painkillers such as OxyContin and Percocet." Purdue invented "many of the aggressive marketing techniques that made OxyContin a blockbuster drug and which government lawsuits now seek to frame as unlawful."

More Coverage. Purdue Is Under Investigation For Opioid Painkiller OxyContin (Wall Street Journal, 10/25, Sara Randazzo And Jeanne Whalen), Opioid Drugmaker Purdue Pharma Faces U.S. Investigation (Reuters, 10/25)

Mental Illness:

DEPRESSION TIED TO SHORTER LIFESPAN

Reuters (10/25)

Reuters continues coverage of a Canadian study published in CMAJ that found depression was linked to a higher risk of early death. The researchers combed "six decades of mental health and mortality data on 3,410 adults during three time periods: 1952 to 1967, 1968 to 1990 and 1991 to 2011." In the first wave, life expectancy for those with depression was 10 years shorter for women and 12 for men. In the second wave, life expectancy was 7 years shorter for men with depression. In the final wave, life expectancy was 7 years shorter for women with depression and 18 years shorter for men. Lead study author Stephen Gilman of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development said, "Given our finding that individuals whose depression was present at multiple time points in our study were at highest risk, it is very important to seek treatment for depression and to be vigilant about recurrences."

AP EXCLUSIVE: DOCTORS CLASH OVER EUTHANASIA FOR MENTALLY ILL

Associated Press (10/26)

The AP reports in a greater-than 2,000 word piece on the debate over euthanasia for mentally ill patients in Belgium, noting the medical community is at odds over how to "strike a balance between respecting personal freedom and ensuring that people requesting euthanasia have the mental capacity to make that decision." The case "has raised concerns even among doctors who support the procedure for psychological suffering," with disputes within the medical community suggesting that "doctors may have failed to meet certain legal requirements." The article quotes Dr. Scott Kim, a bioethics expert at the US National Institutes of Health, as saying, "These are patients who are easily misunderstood because of the disorders they have. ... Any patient with a serious psychiatric diagnosis will be in a lot of distress and could technically meet the Belgian



requirement of 'unbearable suffering' for euthanasia."

Blogs:

ALEXANDER-MURRAY, OBAMACARE BILL CBO SCORE

Business Insider (10/25)

Bob Bryan writes for Business Insider that the Congressional Budget Office released its assessment of the Bipartisan Health Care Stabilization Act of 2017 by Sens. Lamar Alexander and Patty Murray "designed to stabilize the Obamacare exchanges over the next few years." The score showed the bill "would shrink the federal deficit by \$3.8 billion over 10 years."

NEW GOV'T REPORT REVEALS HOW TRUMP ADMIN CUT O'CARE OUTREACH IN JANUARY

Talking Points Memo (10/25)

Alice Ollstein writes for Talking Points Memo that a report released Wednesday from the inspector general of the Department of Health and Human Services "found the 'beachhead' team the Trump administration installed at HHS just after the inauguration verbally ordered the cancellation of all outreach regarding Obamacare's marketplace enrollment on Jan. 26 – just a few days before the enrollment deadline," before later telling staff "to cancel only certain outreach activities and indicated that the goal was to save money." The IG said it was "unable to determine conclusively what factors were considered in making the decision" to cancel the outreach.

AVALERE STUDY: 2018 OBAMACARE PREMIUMS UNDER TRUMP JUMP 34%

Business Insider (10/25)

Bob Bryan writes for Business Insider that a new study by Avalere Health "found that premiums for silver-level Obamacare plans would increase by 34% next year" due to "changes from the Trump administration, enrollment adjustments, and insurer departures." The study "also found that most Americans in the exchanges would be insulated from the increases."

Opinion:

FINALLY, A HEALTH-CARE PROPOSAL THAT ACTUALLY PAYS OFF

Washington Post (10/25)

The Washington Post editorializes that the Congressional Budget Office found Wednesday that the bipartisan healthcare proposal could reform the system, restrain costs, and would not kick "anyone off their coverage." The Post says: "The bipartisan compromise proposal crafted by Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) and Patty Murray (D-Wash.) now officially falls into the category of 'so obvious it should pass immediately.'" The editorial concludes, "Republicans can continue ignoring reality, tempting chaos in health-care markets and risking the nation's fiscal health. But they cannot claim they were not warned."

ON HEALTH CARE, SEN. LAMAR ALEXANDER GOT WHAT NO OTHER REPUBLICAN HAS

Washington Post (10/25, By Jennifer Rubin)

Jennifer Rubin writes in the Washington Post in its "Right Turn" blog that Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA) got a "boost" from the Congressional Budget Office score because the plan would reduce the federal deficit by \$3.8 billion in the next ten years and would not affect the number of uninsured. Rubin adds, "The hang-up here is the president, who cannot decide what he wants – and likely doesn't know precisely what is in the Alexander-Murray bill." The piece says that the bill is a "no-brainer" and "it's time for Trump to decide what he wants to do – stick Americans with soaring premium costs or back a bill that shrinks the deficit and maintains much of the status quo."

OPIOID CRISIS HAS A NEW LEADING KILLER: FENTANYL

USA Today (10/25)

In an editorial, USA Today calls fentanyl the "new leading killer" ion the opioid epidemic and says



that if President Trump "as expected Thursday...declares an emergency, the most urgent element of that emergency is the spread of fentanyl." Efforts "should mean stronger action on both the demand side, meaning stepped-up efforts to treat users, and the supply side, meaning more aggressive crackdowns on the sources of fentanyl and its traffickers."

CBO: CONGRESS WAITED TOO LONG TO AVOID OBAMACARE PREMIUM INCREASES FOR 2018

Los Angeles Times (10/25, Michael Hiltzik)

Michael Hiltzik writes in the Los Angeles Times that the Congressional Budget Office offered "good news" that the bill co-authored by Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA) "would accomplish its goal of reducing premiums and would even cut the federal deficit, without raising the number of Americans without health coverage," but also the "bad news" that it is "already too late for the measure to affect premiums for 2018." Hiltzik details the CBO's analyses of the legislation's key provisions, however, he opines that "there are no signs it ever will be enacted at all."

AS AMERICA'S FUTURE DOCTORS, WE SUPPORT A MEDICARE-FOR-ALL HEALTH SYSTEM

STAT (10/25, Augie Lindmark, Vanessa Van Doren, Bryant Shuey, And Andy Hyatt)
Four medical school students, Augie Lindmark, Vanessa Van Doren, Bryant Shuey, and Andy
Hyatt, write in STAT that "America's fragmented and inequitable health system is a sinking ship
and recent fixes – often in the form of private health insurance industry bailouts or shutouts – are
like placing tissue paper over the leaks in this doomed vessel." The piece discusses the recent
bills in the House and Senate proposing Medicare-for-All, and that majorities of Americans and
their physicians now support single-payer healthcare. They conclude, "As medical students, we
occupy a unique seat from which to view America's health system" and they want to practice in a
Medicare-for-All system "where every patient has health care."

National Front Page News:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

New York Times:

As G.O.P. Bends Toward Trump, Critics Either Give In Or Give Up Interactive Feature: Boko Haram Strapped Suicide Bombs To Them. Somehow These Teenage Girls Survived.

Tax Cuts Are The Glue Holding A Fractured Republican Party Together
Pitched As Calming Force, John Kelly Instead Mirrors Boss's Priorities
Fats Domino, Early Rock 'N' Roller With A Boogie-Woogie Piano, Is Dead At 89

Wall Street Journal:

FCC To Ease Limits On Local Media Ownership
House Republicans Are Still Considering 401(k) Changes in Tax Overhaul
The Morningstar Mirage
Abadi Wants US-Iran Rivalry Out Of Irag

Washington Post:

Republicans Target Bannon
In California, A Developing-World Virus
First Niger Reports Had Several Missing
Gillespie's Strategy For His Own Race? Caution.
Thriving Prison Firm Ties Itself To President

This copy of the HHS Secretary's News Briefing was sent to you because you are registered for email notification on our <u>website</u>. If you would like to cancel email delivery click <u>here</u>.



Copyright 2017 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's terms of use. Services including embedded Tweets are also subject to Twitter for Website's information and privacy policies. The HHS Secretary's News Briefing is published seven days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at BulletinIntelligence.com, or called at (703) 483-6100.



From:Bulletin IntelligenceSent:3 Oct 2017 05:58:10 -0400To:HHS@BulletinIntelligence.com

Subject: HHS Secretary's News Briefing for Tuesday, October 03, 2017

HHS SECRETARY'S NEWS BRIEFING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2017 6:00 AM EDT

Top National Stories:

HOUSE REPUBLICANS PROPOSE PUERTO RICO FUNDING AS PART OF CHIP BILL

Washington Post (10/2, Paige Winfield Cunningham)

The Washington Post reports in its "Power Post" that a Republican proposal from the House Energy and Commerce Committee provided Monday night to the Post would fund the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for five years and send \$1 billion in extra Medicaid funding to Puerto Rico to help with recovery from hurricane damage. The House committee plans to mark up the bill Wednesday, the same day that the Senate Finance Committee will consider its own CHIP legislation. The Post reports that both "bills would maintain for two years extra CHIP funding laid out under the ACA, and then phase it out."

More Coverage. CHIP Covers 9 Million Kids. Its Funding Expired This Weekend. (Vox, 10/2), Almost 400,000 Texans' Insurance At Risk After Congress Fails To Renew CHIP (Texas Tribune, 10/2), Idaho Kids On CHIP Health Care Wait For Congress To Renew (Idaho Statesman, 10/2), Congress Doesn't Renew Federal Program, Putting Health Coverage Of 75,000 Colorado Children In Jeopardy (Denver Post, 10/2), GOP Lawmakers Want Puerto Rico Funding To Accompany Children's Healthcare Bill (Washington Examiner, 10/3)

Health Reform, Marketplaces & Healthcare:

THE HEALTH 202: TRUMP COULD PICK ONE OF THESE PEOPLE TO REPLACE PRICE AT HHS

Washington Post (10/2, Paige Winfield)

Paige Winfield writes in the Washington Post "The Health 202" that Tom Price resigned as HHS Secretary just 11 days after Politico began reporting that he had been using private jets for official business. She adds that Price's successor "will inherit many messy questions." In the interim, Don Wright, who has been director of the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, is acting HHS Secretary. Winfield says some of the top candidates for Price's job are CMS Administrator Seema Verma, FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, Florida Gov. Rick Scott (R), and David Shulkin, secretary of Veterans Affairs.

More Coverage. Acting Secretary Don J. Wright Has A Long HHS Resume; Seema Verma's In The Lead To Replace Tom Price (Fierce Healthcare, 10/2), The Race Is On To Replace Tom Price (Daily Caller, 10/2), Tom Price's Resignation Shows Importance Of Strong Cabinet (The Hill, 10/2, Dan Mahaffee), Price Was A Disaster For HHS – Time For An Administrator, Not An Ideologue (The Hill, 10/2, Brendan Williams), Conservatives Put Gottlieb, Jindal At Top Of List To Head HHS (Modern Healthcare, 10/2), Health And Human Services Secretary Possible Nominees Include Scott, Jindal (Washington Times, 10/2, Tom Howell Jr.), The White House Reached Out To Barrasso About A Job. He Said No. (Casper (WY) Star-Tribune, 10/2), Wyoming Senator Considered For, Declines White House Job (Associated Press, 10/3)

IS PRICE DEPARTURE GOOD FOR HEALTH IT?

Politico (10/2, By Arthur Allen)



Politico reports is some speculation about the impact of former HHS Secretary Tom Price's departure on health IT. The article says Price "was not a big fan of the transition from fee-for-service, nor the tools for getting there." Nevertheless, much "depends on who takes his place." The piece adds that while it is difficult to predict whom President Trump might select as Price's replacement, two of the top candidates should be CMS Administrator Seema Verma and FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, who were "both previously vetted and approved by the Senate."

SPEAKER PAUL RYAN SAYS GOP'S HEALTH-CARE FIGHT ISN'T OVER

CBS News (10/2)

CBS News reports on its website that House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) is not prepared "to throw in the towel on repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act despite" Republicans' failure to pass an ACA repeal bill so far. During an interview on CBS' "Face the Nation," Ryan "expressed a continued desire to pass legislation, to remedy Republicans' overriding distaste with Obamacare, which Ryan believes has uprooted insurance markets, increased prices and limited choices, especially for those living in rural parts of the country." Ryan is quoted as saying, "Forget about the politics, that doesn't really matter. What matters is, are we improving people's lives and are we solving problems or not?" He added, "The country entrusted us, the Republicans, with control of the House, you know, marginal control of the Senate, because it's a tight margin, and the presidency. So I do think we have to get back at this."

BAKER CALLS FOR BIPARTISAN EFFORT ON HEALTH CARE REFORM

Boston Globe (10/2, Priyanka Dayal McCluskey)

The Boston Globe reports that on Monday, Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker (R) urged congressional lawmakers "to take action on several looming health care issues, saying it was a shame that the debate has been dominated by partisan efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act." Baker wants Congress to "work quickly to stabilize health insurance markets and authorize funding for two government-funded programs, the Children's Health Insurance Program and community health centers." The deadline to reauthorize funding for both programs passed on Saturday.

More Coverage. Gov. Charlie Baker: Federal Inaction On Health Care Could Hurt Massachusetts (Springfield (MA) Republican, 10/2)

MARYLAND HEALTH EXCHANGE OPENS WEBSITE FOR BROWSING PLANS

Baltimore Sun (10/2)

The Baltimore Sun reports that because the Trump Administration cut the ACA open enrollment period in half, "Maryland health exchange officials have opened up their online marketplace early so residents could browse options and get a sense of how much more plans could cost." Consumers will be able to purchase plans from November 1 through December 15. Previously, the open enrollment period lasted three months, instead of 45 days.

PREMIUMS DECLINING, STEADY FOR PLANS VIA MNSURE

Minneapolis Star Tribune (10/2)

The Minneapolis Star Tribune reports that on Monday, Minnesota officials said rates "for health plans on the state's MNsure exchange will decline in many cases or hold relatively steady next year...due in large part to a program designed to hold down rates." Data show that on average, "statewide premium changes for the largest carriers in 2018 will range from a 13 percent decrease to a less than 3 percent increase," which marks "a dramatic switch from last year's increases of 50 percent or more." The article adds that Minnesota's "new 'reinsurance' program is a big factor in holding down the rates, officials said, but Gov. Mark Dayton hasn't yet signed the agreement with the federal government that helps fund the program."

More Coverage. Insurance Rates Tick Up For Small Businesses, Dip For MNsure (Minneapolis-St. Paul (MN) Business Journal, 10/2), Obamacare Health Insurance Rates In Minnesota Decrease, Stabilize (Washington Examiner, 10/2)



OBAMACARE REPEAL: ADS TARGET GOP LAWMAKERS FOR REFUSING TO KILL OFF 'ZOMBIE' LEGISLATION THAT JUST WON'T DIE

Newsweek (10/2, Celeste Katz)

Newsweek reports that Save My Care, a progressive group "which is waging a national grassroots campaign to defend the Affordable Care Act, is rolling out ads targeting 16 Republicans in the Senate and House." The article says the 30-second digital ads "liken the GOP's continuing 'repeal and replace' battle to" the "pesky undead legions" of "The Walking Dead" that just refuse "to stay down." The spots feature a narrator who "warns that 'Washington politicians' voted to 'repeal our health care. And even though senators keep killing it, just like a zombie, it keeps coming back."

UTAH MEDICAID EXPANSION BACKERS FILE BALLOT INITIATIVE

Associated Press (10/2)

The AP reports advocates filed paperwork Monday for a ballot initiative in Utah to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, which would expand eligibility to around 127,000 people in the state. The ballot initiative comes after Utah lawmakers have chosen not to expand Medicaid for years, "citing concerns about the state's ability to pay for the program and questions about whether the federal government could afford to pay its share of the cost."

More Coverage. Backers File Paperwork To Put Utah Medicaid Expansion On 2018 Ballot (Salt Lake (UT) Tribune, 10/2), Full Medicaid Expansion A Step Closer To Being Decided By Utah Voters (Deseret (UT) News, 10/2)

STATE'S SPENDING FOR MEDICAID UP

Arkansas Democrat Gazette (10/2)

The Arkansas Democrat Gazette reports Arkansas' expanded Medicaid program grew by nearly 24 percent during the fiscal year that ended June 30 as a result of enrollment beyond expectations. Arkansas paid an estimated \$38.4 million out of the total \$1.9 billion and the federal government paid the difference. Gov. Asa Hutchinson (R) said in a statement Friday that Medicaid is "unsustainable for every state, including Arkansas, and we have been working hard to reform the program." Traditional Medicaid in the state also grew by 4.3 percent, the largest increase since 2012.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION BACKS 20-WEEK ABORTION BAN

The Hill (10/2, Jessie Hellmann)

The Hill reports the White House "formally backed a House bill Monday that would ban abortions after 20 weeks." The Office of Management and Budget wrote in a statement that the Administration "strongly supports" the bill and "applauds the House of Representatives for continuing its efforts to secure critical pro-life protections." The bill "would make it a crime to perform or attempt an abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy," with a penalty of a fine, up to five years in prison or both.

More Coverage. White House Backs 20-week Abortion Ban (Washington Examiner, 10/2)

MEDICARE OFFICIAL RECOUNTS 'HOSTILE' INTERACTIONS WITH MENENDEZ

New York Times (10/2, Nick Corasaniti)

The New York Times reports Jonathan Blum, a former principal deputy administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, testified in federal court Monday in Newark about his "hostile" interactions with a "visibly angry" Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ), who is on trial for corruption. Blum testified that his interactions with the senator stood out from other conversations with lawmakers for two reasons, "One is the tone of the conversation was very aggressive, was very adversarial. ... And two, that most of my interactions, just about every interaction I had with a member of Congress, was either about a national policy that affected a million stakeholders throughout the country or about a specific issue in that member's own state or district." Menendez was focused on how a billing practice affected his friend and co-defendant, Dr. Salomon Melgen, a Florida ophthalmologist, Blum said.



HOW TO HACK YOUR HSA: IT'S NOT JUST FOR MEDICAL COSTS ANYMORE

USA Today (10/3, Kenneth Kiesnoski, Cnbc)

Kenneth Kiesnoski writes on the CNBC website that health savings accounts (HSA) can be "hacked" to save for retirement. The piece says that HSA savings have a "triple tax benefit" because contributions are tax deductible, the principal can grow tax-deferred, and the money can be withdrawn at any time for qualifying medical expenses. Certified financial planner Sophia Bera says, "Medical costs are the highest at or near retirement. … So think about this being like an IRA for your health-care costs."

FDA CHIEF SAYS HIGH DRUG PRICES 'PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN' AGENCY SHOULD ADDRESS

Wall Street Journal (10/2, Thomas M. Burton)

The Wall Street Journal reports that Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb has declared that high prescription drug prices are "a public health concern that FDA should address." In a blog post, Gottlieb wrote that the agency will take steps to create "more efficient generic drug development, review and approval pathways."

More Coverage. U.S. FDA Moves To Smooth Path For Complex Generic Drugs (Reuters, 10/2), FDA Acts To Encourage Generic Competition For Complex Drugs (Associated Press, 10/2, Linda A. Johnson)

CRITICS PAN USDA PLAN TO MOVE FOOD SAFETY WORK TO TRADE OFFICE

Politico (10/2, Helena Bottemiller Evich)

Politico reports current and former federal employees in the Agriculture Department and the FDA are voicing concerns about a Trump Administration plan to move the work of the USDA's CODEX office, which handles international food safety issues, to "the agency's newly created trade arm." Food safety experts worry that the move could give the impression that federal regulators were subordinating food safety concerns to trade priorities, a concern fueled in part by the Trump Administration's nomination of Ted McKinney, a former executive at veterinary pharmaceutical company Elanc, to lead the USDA's new trade division. FDA spokeswoman Lauren Sucher said the "FDA was recently informed of the decision to move the CODEX office and notified USDA of concerns with the proposal. ... We will be sharing FDA's view in more detail as part of written comments to USDA and we look forward to working with them to address these issues."

AMERICANS WANT REQUIRED FOOD LABELS EVEN IF THEY DON'T READ THEM Reuters (10/2)

Reuters reports that a Reuters/Ipsos opinion poll finds most Americans want the federal government "to require nutrition labels on food packaging, including people who do not read them." Eighty-four percent of adults said that "the government should require nutrition information labels on all packaged food sold in grocery stores" and 64 percent were in favor of similar requirements for restaurants, although only 13 percent said they "always" read nutritional facts when shopping. The poll results come as the Trump Administration "has delayed the introduction of mandatory labeling of sugars added to packaged food and use of genetically-engineered ingredients."

PREPARE FOR A ROCKY FLU SEASON

Wall Street Journal (10/2, Sumathi Reddy)

The Wall Street Journal reports the southern hemisphere has encountered a particularly problematic flu season, and some experts are predicting similar difficulties for the US. The article quotes both National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases head Anthony Fauci and the CDC's influenza leader Dan Jernigan. According to the story, Dr. Fauci touts the match of the current US flu vaccine to the strain that is predicted to circulate. Additionally, Dr. Jernigan says the flu vaccine can last roughly one year in young adults and that Australia's recent flu may be similar to the strain the US experienced last season.



THE LAS VEGAS MASSACRE IS A REMINDER THAT WE NEED GUN VIOLENCE RESEARCH MORE THAN EVER

Huffington Post (10/2)

Anna Almendrala writes for the Huffington Post that in the wake of the Las Vegas mass shooting on Sunday, "experts say that unless the public prioritizes funding for gun violence research, nothing is ever going to change." According to Dr. Joseph V. Sakran, a trauma surgeon and director of Emergency General Surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital, "If you really want to make a change that's appropriate and that actually makes a difference, you have to have an evidence-based approach." Almendrala says that evidence is sparse, pointing to a 1996 amendment restricting the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from promoting research into gun violence, which "has had the effect of throttling almost all federally-funded research on how gun violence affects Americans."

Opioid News:

NIH TO STUDY BABIES AFFECTED BY OPIOIDS

The Hill (10/2, Rachel Roubein)

The Hill reports the National Institutes of Health's Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO) program and the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development will collaborate to study "babies born with opioid withdrawal syndrome." Diana W. Bianchi, the director of the NICHD, said, "Public health and research communities cannot overlook the opioid epidemic's effects on pregnant women and their infants."

More Coverage. NIH To Study Opioid Withdrawal In Newborns (Connecticut Post, 10/2)

MEDICAL CANNABIS CAN HELP REDUCE OUR NATION'S PAIN EPIDEMIC.

The Hill (10/2, Steph Sherer)

Steph Sherer, executive director of Americans for Safe Access, writes in an opinion piece in The Hill that the US should use medical cannabis as a non-opioid alternative to treat pain. Sherer argues that while the pharmaceutical industry is trying to promote a number of non-opioid alternatives with side effects, the US should "explore what millions of Americans are already using successfully as an alternative or adjunct treatment to pain, with little to none of the side effects associated with pharmaceutical treatments." Sherer mentions that during a recent meeting of the President's commission on the opioid crisis, NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins "expressed the need to accelerate the pace of how medicines that may help with chronic pain are researched and obtain FDA approval." Sherer says that the National Institute on Drug Abuse "has indicated that medical cannabis legalization might be associated with decreased prescription opioid use and overdose deaths," and the NIH recently suggested that medical cannabis may be an effective treatment for "neuropathic pain patients."

Blogs:

WHICH STATES ARE HIT HARDEST BY FAILURE TO FUND CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROGRAM

Talking Points Memo (10/2, Alice Ollstein)

Alice Ollstein writes for Talking Points Memo that "Congress allowed funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which covers nearly 9 million children in low-income families, to lapse" when it failed to pass a reauthorization by Saturday. According to an analysis by the Kaiser Family Foundation, "48 of 50 states, including DC, assumed Congress would reauthorize CHIP when they wrote their 2018 state budgets," and "at least 10 states are on track to run out of money by the end of 2017."

Opinion:

THREE THINGS TRUMP CAN DO RIGHT NOW TO LOWER HEALTH-CARE COSTS



CNBC (10/2, Jake Novak)

Jake Novak writes in a CNBC commentary, "If the goal is to once again overhaul health-insurance rules, change minimum coverage requirements, end individual and employer mandates, outlaw premium increases, and mess with the Affordable Care Act tax penalties, the GOP should by all means play the legislative waiting game and try again early next year." Novak argues, however, that this would be a waste of time, because the US actually needs "more time spent on our real problem, which is the growing cost of health care."

BERNIE'S MEDICARE FOR ALL IS CRUEL AND NOT COMPASSIONATE

The Hill (10/2, Dr. Ramin Oskoui)

Dr. Ramin Oskoui, former president of the medical staff of Sibley Memorial Hospital – Johns Hopkins, writes in an op-ed for The Hill that recently, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) unveiled "his 96-page plan to walk away from the finally-acknowledged failures of ObamaCare and try yet another ill-considered plan to remake our health care system in the name of 'compassion.'" Oskoui argues that what Sanders "calls 'Medicare for all' depends on repealing the laws of economics and denying everything we know about basic human nature."

CHEAPER COMPOUNDED DRUGS COULD SAVE THE BROKEN HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

The Hill (10/2, Stacie Phan)

In an opinion piece for The Hill, Stacie Phan, President of the Biosimilars Forum, writes that biosimilar drugs "have the potential to reduce costs in our health care system and increase access to care for millions of patients," but the US "has yet to realize the growth in the biosimilars market already seen overseas." Phan concludes that "it is critical that education and policies are advanced to support the biosimilars reaching the marketplace so that patients can access these safe, effective and more cost-efficient medicines."

FRUIT FLIES AND YOUR INSOMNIA

Wall Street Journal (10/2)

In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal spotlights the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine awards announced Monday. The Journal highlights the work of three Americans recognized for their discoveries about circadian rhythms. The piece explains how the three researchers examine the biological clock at the molecular level, using fruit flies to isolate the gene and discovering how proteins encoded in a cyclical pattern.

National Front Page News:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

Las Vegas Shooting Leaves At Least 59 Dead, More Than 520 Injured In Las Vegas, Concertgoers Faced Barrage Of Bullets, Confusion Goldman Sachs Weighs Trading Cryptocurrencies
China, With Methodical Discipline, Conjures A Market For Electric Cars

New York Times:

A Burst Of Gunfire, A Pause, Then Carnage In Las Vegas That Would Not Stop Stephen Paddock, Las Vegas Suspect, Was A Gambler Who Drew Little Attention Gunman's Vantage Point And Preparations Opened The Way For Mass Slaughter GM And Ford Lay Out Plans To Expand Electric Models

Washington Post:

Russia Exploited Ad Tool Tailored For Corporate America
Confusion, Then A Tumble Into Chaos At Concert
Arsenal And High Perch Made This Attack So Lethal
Retiree With Money To Burn Was A Gambler And Always On The Move



This copy of the HHS Secretary's News Briefing was sent to you because you are registered for email notification on our <u>website</u>. If you would like to cancel email delivery click <u>here</u>.

Copyright 2017 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's terms of use. Services including embedded Tweets are also subject to Twitter for Website's information and privacy policies. The HHS Secretary's News Briefing is published seven days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at BulletinIntelligence.com, or called at (703) 483-6100.



From: Barnes, Joshua (OS/ASPR/OEM) Sent: 4 Oct 2017 01:12:59 +0000

To: Gabriel, Edward (OS/ASPR/IO); Grant, Natalie (OS/ASPR/OEM); Hastings,

Elizabeth (OS/ASPR/OEM); Hadzibegovic, Diana (OS/ASPR/OEM); Mason, Byron

(OS/ASPR/OEM); Roach-Seymour, Sonia (OS/ASPR/OEM) (CTR); Fischer, Rachel (OS/ASPR/OEM)

(CTR); Woolfolk, Jyl (OS/ASPR/OPP); Recovery Task Force - 2017 Harvey; Andrews, Sean (OS/ASPR/IO); Pavetto, Carl (FDA/OC); Fantinato, Jessica (OS/ASPR/OEM); Bratcher-Bowman, Nikki (HHS/IEA); Jones, Wanda K. (DHHS/OS/OASH); Pilato, Anna (ACF); Gettinger, Andrew

(OS/ONC);Sherman, Susan (HHS/OGC);Ford-Barnes, Arwenthia (HHS/ASPR/IO);Finne, Kristen (OS/ASPR/OPP); Johnson, Kelly J. (OS/ASPR/OPP) (CTR); Robertson, Lance (ACL); Oidtman, Jessica

(OS/ASPR/OPP);Ponton, Wendy (HRSA);Cordova, Jon (OS/ASA);Herron, Anne

(SAMHSA/OPPI):Delarosa, Mary (OS/ASPR/OPP):Nicholls, Richard (ACL):Robinson, Vicki L

(OIG/IO);Lennon, Todd (HRSA);Nevel, Amy (HHS/ASPE);Burney, Tabinda

(OS/ASPR/OEM); Herrmann, Jack (HHS/ASPR/OPP); Redd, Stephen (CDC/OPHPR/OD); Levine, Cheryl (OS/ASPR/OPP); Nelson, Rachel (OS/ONC); Leary, Adam (OS/ASPR/OEM); Chase, Jabal L. (CMS/CQISCO);Max Hamel;Teuscher, David (HHS/IEA);Ray Gorrie, Jennifer (HHS/OGC);Davis, Ruth M (OIG/IO); Garza, Roberto (ACF); ESF8 Coordination Group (OS/ASPR); Bowens, Michael

(HRSA); Mackay, Thomas (OS/ASPR/OEM)

Subject: HHS Senior Leader Disaster Recovery Task Force

Attachments: HSS RSF Quad Chart Reports - Irma Maria 100217 Final.xlsx, HSS RSF

Quad Chart Reports Harvey 10.02.17- Texas Final.xlsx

Good Evening,

Based on the submissions collected from COB Friday, attached are the consolidated Quad Charts from the interagency for Harvey and Irma/Maria recovery efforts.

In addition, we've established a MAX.gov page to begin posting information for file sharing and included a

link for future quad chart submissions. https://community.max.gov/x/pOdqOO



Thank you for your continued support of our recovery missions!

Josh

Joshua Barnes

Acting Director, Recovery Division, HHS/ASPR

D: 202-260-6123

M: (b)(6)

----Original Appointment----

From: Gabriel, Edward (OS/ASPR/IO) Sent: Monday, September 18, 2017 1:42 PM

To: Gabriel, Edward (OS/ASPR/IO); Grant, Natalie (OS/ASPR/OEM); Hastings, Elizabeth (OS/ASPR/OEM); Hadzibegovic, Diana (OS/ASPR/OEM); Mason, Byron (OS/ASPR/OEM); Roach-Seymour, Sonia (OS/ASPR/OEM) (CTR); Barnes, Joshua (OS/ASPR/OEM); Fischer, Rachel

(OS/ASPR/OEM) (CTR); Woolfolk, Jyl (OS/ASPR/OPP); Recovery Task Force - 2017 Harvey; Andrews, Sean (OS/ASPR/IO); Pavetto, Carl (FDA/OC); Fantinato, Jessica (OS/ASPR/OEM); Bratcher-Bowman,



Nikki (HHS/IEA); Jones, Wanda K. (DHHS/OS/OASH); Pilato, Anna (ACF); Gettinger, Andrew (OS/ONC); Sherman, Susan (HHS/OGC); Ford-Barnes, Arwenthia (HHS/ASPR/IO); Finne, Kristen (OS/ASPR/OPP); Johnson, Kelly J. (OS/ASPR/OPP) (CTR); Robertson, Lance (ACL); Oidtman, Jessica (OS/ASPR/OPP); Ponton, Wendy (HRSA); Cordova, Jon (OS/ASA); Herron, Anne (SAMHSA/OPPI); Delarosa, Mary (OS/ASPR/OPP); Nicholls, Richard (ACL); Robinson, Vicki L (OIG/IO); Lennon, Todd (HRSA); Nevel, Amy (HHS/ASPE); Burney, Tabinda (OS/ASPR/OEM); Herrmann, Jack (HHS/ASPR/OPP); Redd, Stephen (CDC/OPHPR/OD); Levine, Cheryl (OS/ASPR/OPP); Nelson, Rachel (OS/ONC); Leary, Adam (OS/ASPR/OEM); Chase, Jabal L. (CMS/CQISCO); Max Hamel; Teuscher, David (HHS/IEA); Ray Gorrie, Jennifer (HHS/OGC); Davis, Ruth M (OIG/IO); Garza, Roberto (ACF); ESF8 Coordination Group (OS/ASPR); Bowens, Michael (HRSA); Mackay, Thomas (OS/ASPR/OEM) Subject: FW: Harvey Recovery Task Force

When: Friday, October 06, 2017 10:00 AM-11:00 AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).

Where: APSR Main Conference Room Humphrey Suite 638G | Conference Line: 202-774-2300, PIN: (b)(6)

From: Ford-Barnes, Arwenthia (HHS/ASPR/IO)On Behalf OfGabriel, Edward (OS/ASPR/IO) Sent: Monday, September 18, 2017 1:41:49 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada) To: Recovery Task Force - 2017 Harvey; Andrews, Sean (OS/ASPR/IO); Hadzibegovic, Diana (OS/ASPR/OEM); Mason, Byron (OS/ASPR/OEM); Pavetto, Carl (FDA/OC); Barnes, Joshua (OS/ASPR/OEM); Fantinato, Jessica (OS/ASPR/OEM); Bratcher-Bowman, Nikki (HHS/IEA); Jones, Wanda K. (DHHS/OS/OASH); Pilato, Anna (ACF); Hastings, Elizabeth (OS/ASPR/OEM); Gettinger, Andrew (OS/ONC); Sherman, Susan (HHS/OGC); Woolfolk, Jyl (OS/ASPR/OPP); Ford-Barnes, Arwenthia (HHS/ASPR/IO); Finne, Kristen (OS/ASPR/OPP); Johnson, Kelly J. (OS/ASPR/OPP) (CTR); Robertson, Lance (ACL); Oidtman, Jessica (OS/ASPR/OPP); Ponton, Wendy (HRSA); Cordova, Jon (OS/ASA); Herron, Anne (SAMHSA/OPPI); Delarosa, Mary (OS/ASPR/OPP); Nicholls, Richard (ACL); Robinson, Vicki L (OIG/IO); Lennon, Todd (HRSA); Nevel, Amy (HHS/ASPE); Burney, Tabinda (OS/ASPR/OEM); Herrmann, Jack (HHS/ASPR/OPP); Redd, Stephen (CDC/OPHPR/OD); Levine, Cheryl (OS/ASPR/OPP); Nelson, Rachel (OS/ONC); Leary, Adam (OS/ASPR/OEM); Chase, Jabal L. (CMS/CQISCO); Max Hamel; Teuscher, David (HHS/IEA); Ray Gorrie, Jennifer (HHS/OGC); Davis, Ruth M (OIG/IO); Garza, Roberto (ACF); ESF8 Coordination Group (OS/ASPR); Bowens, Michael (HRSA)

Subject: Harvey Recovery Task Force

When: Occurs every Friday from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM effective 9/22/2017. (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

Where: APSR Main Conference Room Humphrey Suite 638G | Conference Line: 202-774-2300, PIN: (b)(6)

Placeholder for the 2017 Harvey Recovery Task Force Weekly Meetings. Meeting materials will be sent around no later than the Wednesday COB prior to the meeting. Please contact Joshua Barnes (joshua.barnes@hhs.gov) with any questions or concerns.

To participate in the WebEx:

- WebEx Link
- ASPR users: use Internet Explorer. If you are properly logged in to WebEx Assistant, you will be redirected immediately. If not, enter in your name and email address (do NOT change the ?Meeting Password?), and click ?Join?. If prompted for a user name and password, it is your HHS email address and ITIO password.



- **Non-ASPR Users:** Enter in your name and email address (do NOT change the ?Meeting Password?), click ?Join?. If prompted, click ?Run a temporary application? and follow the prompts (you will not need admin privileges to run this software).
- Click on the ?Audio Connection? button.
- Follow the instructions for your preferred audio connection method (if you have not tested your computer audio prior to the meeting, please call in via the listed teleconference line).

Audio Only Users:

Conference Line: 202-774-2300

Pin: (b)(6)



The State Office and the same and state of the same and t	ortralis at this tima. No
Addition Secretary for Administration ###################################	lacement for people with adults. sheltered in place at to get food (information
# Dingoing assessment of large number of private wells # Dingoing assessment of large number of private wells # Dingoing assessment of large number of private wells # Dingoing assessment of large number of private wells ## Dingoing assessment of large number of private wells	
### OF FAM PSA - Pew To Make Your Water Safe or Preparedness Summit Abstract or Preparedness Summit Abstract or SHS Social Medial-Products Arriving in Puerte Rico SHS Social Medial Messager for 2017 Humscher Reported Family or Family or Family or Preventing Character Cares Officer, Rapid or SHS Social Medial Messager for 2017 Humscher Brook or SHS Social Medial Messager for 2017 Humscher Brook or SHS Social Medial Messager for 2017 Humscher Brook or SHS Social Medial Messager for 2017 Humscher Brook or SHS Social Medial Messager for 2017 Humscher Brook or SHS Social Medial Messager for 2017 Humscher Brook or SHS Social Medial Messager for 2017 Humscher Brook or SHS Social Medial Messager for 2017 Humscher Brook or SHS Social Medial Messager for 2017 Humscher Brook or SHS Social Medial Messager for 2017 Humscher Brook or SHS Social Medial Messager for 2017 Humscher Brook of SHS Social Medial Messager for 2017 Humscher Brook of SHS Social Medial Messager for 2017 Humscher Brook of SHS Social Medial Messager for 2017 Humscher Brook of SHS Social Medial Messager for 2017 Humscher Brook of SHS Social Medial Messager for 2017 Humscher Brook of SHS Social Medial Messager for 2017 Humscher Brook of SHS Social Medial Messager for 2017 Humscher Brook of SHS Social Medial Messager for 2017 Humscher Brook of SHS Social Medial Messager for 2017 Humscher Brook of SHS Social Medial Messager for 2017 Humscher Brook of SHS Social Medial Messager for 2017 Humscher Brook of SHS Social Medial Messager for 2017 Humscher Brook of SHS Social Medial Messager for 2017 Humscher Brook of SHS Social Medial Messager for 2017 Humscher Brook of SHS Social Medial Messager for 2017 Humscher Brook of SHS Social Medial Messager for 2017 Humscher Brook of SHS Social Medial Messager for 2017 Humscher Brook of SHS Social Medial Messager for 2017 Hu	
https://www.cd.gov/disasters/withmocontrol.html) or DC MS_RECOVEY_TAIK Force, a working wird A-Rick prisonal representation equip Taik force on iterature preview of adverse childrond exprenence/fainter disasters on children's mental footile thoults a Hurricane disaster, and emergency info resources with footile thomastion Center fuck content and Division of Strategic Rational Stockpile (SASS) social middle westages for 2017 tesponse with ILC content in diseases for 2017 tesponse with ILC content in	rebotne, fruedbarne, or ing flood disasters form generator une Medical Products sidor of guidance on how to the issues than staffed relative in heads a pare not using proper FPI chartage in supply or Dominican Republic formed dispensers, ment and equipment for table information ress possibly extended.
CENTERS for Middicare and Mindicacl Services CENTURES	
Corporation for National and Community Service Objectment of Agriculture	
Department of Federation Department of Heriocation Department of Homeland Security - FEMA Department of Intelligence - FEMA Department of Intellige	
Department of Justice Department of Justice	
Pepartment of Transportation Pepartment of the Teleauny	



Environmental Protection Agency	9/28/17	Sharon White	EPA Recovery Activities: • EPA establishing regional leads for recovery issues and missions. • EPA does not have H&SS recovery activities at this time. EPA does have a Mission Assignment to provide subject matter expertise to teh Natural and cultural Resource RSF coordinator and a Sustainability Advisor to the Necovery Coordination for Hurricane Irma in Region 4.			
Food and Drug Administration	9/27/17	Dominic Frasca	FDA's Florida District/ Port Everglades Resident Post has power, but is nonoperational due to water damage. Telephone screening of potentially affected FDA- regulated industry in FL, GA, AL, TN continues.	All FDA facilities- other than FLA- District/ Port	adversely affected (damage impacting operations	Food Safety and Regulated Medical Products Port Everglades RP remains closed pendling assessment and repain; staff are teleworking/ working remotely. FDA is assessing regulated industry potentially affected by Hurricane Irma
Health Resources and Services Administration	9/18/17	Todd Lennon	FLORIDA There are 554 community health centers service delivery sites in FL providing primary health care to approximately 1.4 million peoples 326 (-6) closed, 228 open. Seventeen of 23 mobile sites are operating. Many Title V regional offices, Home Visiting local implementing agencies, and Healthy Start sites in Florida remain closed due to power outages and/or structural damage GEORGIA. There are 246 community health center service delivery sites in GA providing primary health care to approximately 437,644 peopler. 70 closed, 176 open. Seven of the 8 mobile sites are operating. Seven of the 8 mobile sites are operating. PUEKTO RICO. There are 93 health center service delivery sites in PR providing primary health care to approximately 350,000 people: 1 closed, 92 open. All 10 mobile sites are operating. SOUTH CAROLINA There are 384 health center service delivery sites in SC providing primary health care to approximately 374,257 people: 1,51 closed, 183 open. VIRGIN ISLANDS	HBSA has contacted program participants in AL, FL, GA, PR, SC, and VI to determine impact on infrastructure and services. Title V staff in VI continue to be actively involved in the emergency operations by providing nursing support in the special needs shelters in both districts and helping stage patients flown in to St. Croix HBSA is leading two HBS preparedness workgroups for pregnant and postpartum women and infants, as well as children with special health care needs. HBSA posted guidance to 3468 providers in FL, GA, PR, SC, and VI announcing rolling enrollment of eligible entities due to Irma.	requirements and flexibilities.	NSTR
Indian Health Service	9/18/17	Christopher Jones		NSTR	No unmet needs	None
National Institutes of Health National Security Council						
National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster						
Disaster Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health Office of Minority Health		Wanda Jones Stacey Williams	Region IV has been asked by FL grantees about the ability to reassign personnel for short-term needs in response or recovery. The PHE gov link to the form and procedure for temporary reassignment was provided to Regional Health Administrators and all OASH offices, with particular note to the grant-making offices.		delivery of messages from HHS components with resources related to hurricane recovery. OMH will also feature items about hurricane recovery in its newsletters (which reach \$0,000+ subscribers) and on the OMH website. *Through its Twitter handle, @minorityhealth, OMH will amplify messages and information about resources related to hurricane recovery efforts from the following accounts:	Office on Women's Health grantees—no shortfalls, concerns or issues at this time The new ONH grantee in Gaineauville, FL, is operational and fully prepared to execute the grant project. Environmental Health Regional and RO AGH staff continue to monitor environmental health concerns and participate in related working groups.
Small Business Administration	9/28/17	John Valliere	Disaster Loan Program representatives on the ground FL; property loans and economic injury loans available Counseling programs fully available in FL		Current application deadlines: Irma property Nov 6- 14 (depending on state), EIDL Jun 7-15; Maria about a week later. Expect most property deadlines to be expected as they approach.	
Services Administration	9/15/2017 (No recent update given)	Anne Herron	OTC are functional and operating, except for three. State of FL has a central registry to alert users which OTCs are open and providing services. The	in the all areas SAMMSA has issued press releases in both English and Spanish reminding citizens that the Distater Distress Helpline is a clin or text away. SAMMSA has also processed OTP walvers allowing take home medications to be provided to maintain continuity of Medication Assisted Treatment in the impacted areas. Behavioral health authorities have been supplied with up to date resources, tip sheets and information to serve their citizens.		NSTR
Veterans Affairs	9/29/17	Karen Pulsifer	Re-Deployment of mobile resources: *Total throughput *Veterans: 200 *Veterans: 200 *Veterans: 156 *Non-Veterans: 156	All VA facilities OPEN Re-Deployment of mobile assets.	Continue to monitor for adverse situations within the impacted area. Continue to provide Veteran outreach to disaster survivors. Provide support to Federal and local partners as needed/requested.	



OPDIV/STAFFDIV/AGENCY Administration for Children and Families	10/2/17	POC LCDR Roberto Garza	On-Going Activities (Since Last Report) Region 2 - USV/ Puerto Rice: Trading for the Caribbean area of operations currently totals \$45,970,000.	Key Actions and Accomplishments Adequate funding to support continued operations, even considering extraordinary contracting requirements, is in place.	Future Actions USWI / Puerfor Rico: Recalculating accrual rates and requirements to support future reloads.	issues/Shortalis/Concerns No operational funding shortfalls at this time. No mailor concerns (b)(5)
Administration for Community Living	9/29/17	Kathleen Votava	Protection & Advocacy agency (Janet Collazo) reports: Going to Morovis 9728 in charge of identifying the needs of that town as the Ombudaman, and coordinating efforts around entire Puerto Rico in regards to people with disabilities. 'Working with a team of 10 Government Agency Heads and assesing the elderly homes and developmental disabilities facilities to get an inventory of their needs. From our FEMA contact on the ground in Puerto Rico: 'We are starting to gather intel but it is slow going with such limited communications. We are working with the municipal government to identify sites. Our big worry is high rises with folis trapped indiced and staff that has descreted them. 'We are aware of 18 high rises in San Juan under the authority of the 51 Dept. of Health. 'We have intel from a community group in Condado that has been canvassing the area. 'Finally, today head back for the AT (Assistive Technology) center. I will be meeting her on Saturday 9/30. She reports that they lost everything.		Reported need of satellite phones for agencies to communicate with FEMA and each other.	Protection & Advocacy agency (Janet Collaro) reports: "Supplies are not getting to people (food, water, no gas, helters and eliderly homes doesn't have diesel, basic needs are not covered). "Trying get supplies and help to eliderly homes, community living, hospitals in general people with disabilities, but it has been a challenge. "Some staff visiting the elderly homes and people with developmental disabilities facilities to understand their needs, have not been able to get the support they need. Only have been able to contact 7 of 70 staff so far. There is no electricity, water, TELCOM nor gas. Some staff have lost their homes and the rest do not have gasoline to drive. I don't have access to telephone or internet except at the Government Command Center where I come and work with "ylaptop. From our FEMA contact on the ground in PR: Cour visibility is limited. With no comms I have not been able to reach may folias (Headquaters or clederly patient)." Challenge reaching out to Protection & Advocacy (P&A) and Centers for Independent Living (Cil.s) with many not been able to contact yet.
American Red Cross Assistant Secretary for Administration	9/29/17	Elizabeth Filauri				
Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response	10/2/17	Joshua Barnes	Team is fully engaged with the impact assessment process focusing on health systems, behavioral health, environmental health, and kids in disasters.	The deaf community of PR called on the Governor to address the community's needs, as the majority of information is reportedly not being communicated in a way that can be understood. A request was sent to FEMA for Murricane Harvey (that is relevant for VIPR) to develop and deliver sensory kits for children with sensory disorders) in shelters. In the territories where they are dependent on generators, the noise is tremendous and imposting children AKA has received a request to find out if FEMA can provide sensory kits to USVI and PR Red Cross planning to pull its aid from St. John with reasons assumed that the island is now sustainable. PR Governor by executive order that all those who have existing weapons license can carry it to provide security to the people. USVI: Classes will resume on St. John and St. Thomas and at UVI on October 9th.		From OEM/PREP: As with all sectors, communications may be difficult, so updates may lag, in addition, the current power outage in Fuerto Rico is further impeding the ability to obtain updates.
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	9/29/17	EMG CDC	Communications toolkit for US based friends/families of PR and USVI residents Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) waiver for Carbon Monoxide (Co) exposure assessment study Preparing to deploy billingual (English/Spanish) team to support a ICI in PR and potentially USVI In discussion with CDC Foundation to anticipate unmet needs in PR Pilot testing of recovery landscape assessment commenced	o FEMA PSAHow to Make Your Water Safe o Preparedness Summit Abstract o SNSSocial Medial-Products Arriving in Puerto Rico o SNS Social Medial Messages for 2017 Hurricane Response o Fact SheetHurricane Disaster and Emergency Info	Personnel Pending Deployment: [10] o 1 CDC Commissioned Corps Officer deploy to HHSS Secretary Soperations Center (SOC), Washington, DC. o 8 CDC Commissioned Corps Officers, Rapid Deployment Force 3 (RDF), Orlando FL. o 1 CDC staff member deploy as the HHS Public Information Officer in San Juan, Puerto Rico	Public Health - Consideration of messaging to provide awareness on cholera and other waterborne, foodborne, or diarrheal diseases following flood disasters: Environmental Health - Carbon monoxide exposure from generator use invasive mole desposure Food Safety and Regulated Medical Products - There is a need for provision of guidance on how to address spoiled food Long-term Responder Health Issues - Deployed personnel are short staffed relative to occupational health task/needs - Many involved in cleanup are not using proper PPE. Unknown if this is due to shortage in supply or education regarding use. - Ministry of Health of the Dominican Republic identified the need for chlorine dispensers, personal protection equipment and equipment for rapid response teams. Detailed information forthcoming Social Services - Guidance on how to address possibly extended power supply issues - Guidance on how to address extended water supply issues
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services	10/2/17	CDR Jabal Chase	CMS has worked for the past three weeks to anticipate and respond to the needs of the millions of Medicare, Medicaid, and Cill Beneficiare's living in Texas, Louisiana, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and Florida who have been seriously impacted by these disastrous events. CMS has: O Assisted beneficiaries who have lost or experienced damage to their medical equipment. They will have their equipment replaced because CMS took action to ensure access to the medical equipment and supplies they rely on each day. O Heliped to ensure continued access to life-sainy of Heliped to ensure continued access to life-sainy critical dishyis stronghout the emergency. Last weekend, for example, CMS heliped facilitate the transfer of some critical dishyis patients to stable facilities in San Juan, Puerto Rico, from St. Thomas, where due to hurricane damage, their environment had become unsettled.			While municipal water supply is being restored in some parts of Puerto Rico, it is important to note that diesel remains a critical and ongoing need in all Operational and Partially Operational facilities. Supply chain issue regarding insulin. FYSA - CMS Region 2 Medicaid staff was on a call with PR government who is reporting that insulin in specifically the rural areas is szarca at best but mostly nonexistent. Even where they have insulin in pharmacies, hospitals and at home there is no electric to keep it refrigerated. Locations are : Aguadilla, Isabella, most of the west coast of the Island, the southern parts of the island is what I heard on the call as well central rural parts.
Corporation for National and Community Service						
Department of Agriculture Department of Education						
Department of Homeland Security - FEMA Department of Homeland Security - NPPD						
Department of Homeland Security - CRCL Department of Housing and Urban						
Development Department of the Interior						
Department of Justice Department of Labor						
Department of Transportation Department of the Treasury						
expensions of the measury			I .			



Environmental Protection Agency	9/28/17	Sharon White	EPA Recovery Activities: • EPA establishing regional leads for recovery issues and missions. • EPA does not have H&SS recovery activities at this time.	Recovery lead have been identified for each hurricane response area.		
Food and Drug Administration	10/2/17	EMGFDA	FDA's San Juan District Office continues to perform personnel accountability checks on its staff. 96% of the employees have been successfully contacted and are	Significant progress in accountability of personnel- those unaccounted for primarily live in western part of island, where communications are more of a challenge. FEMA is working with USDA and FDA regarding countries that can be approached for the relief effort in Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands. FDA SNJ DO generator to be refilled 10/4/2017. Refueling contract pending	from manufacturers	Communications continue to be a challenge for conducting personnel accountability checks.
Health Resources and Services Administration	9/29/17	Todd Lennon	Damage to infrastructure continues to limit the ability of many program participants throughout PR and VI to provide health care services supported by HBSA programs. Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant Program, and the Health Center Per Ryan White Programs, Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant Program, and the Health Center Program, and the Health Center Program, PUERTO RICO There are 93 health center service delivery sites in PR providing primary health care to approximately \$30,000 people: 28 (-13) closed, 34 (-23) open with limited services, 31 unknown and presumed closed. Health centers delivering services in PR are limited by the lack of access to fuel and other resources. Poison Control Center calls are being routed to its cell phone w/ contingency routing to NY & FL. All but 1 of the 12 Ryan White Part C & D recipients are closed; 4 of the Regional Pedatric Centers and the 2 Autism Centers are open. VIRGIN ISLANDS There are 5 health center service delivery sites in VI providing primary health care to approximately 17,000 people: 4 closed, 1 open with limited services due to the curfews; both pepartment of Health Maternal and Child Health Clinics (5t. Thomas and St. Croix) are closed.	participants in PR and VI to determine impact on infrastructure and services. HRSA is leading two HHS-wide, ASPR-sponsored preparedness workgroups-for pregnant and postpartum women and infants, as well as children with special health care needs. The New York City Ryan White Program is	participants to determine impact on infrastructure and services. HRSA's programs have and will provide technical assistance to grantees regarding program requirements and flexibilities.	Need to raise the priority for generator fuel and other supplies of PR community health centers. Health centers play a critical role in the island's health care infrastructure as primary & urgent care providers. The Newborn Screening Program in PR is in need of eithy alcohol for the biotinidase test. The lab will need a minimum of 9 bottles to continue testing, and they only have enough to last them a maximum of 6 weeks. The Association of Public Health Laboratories stated they can purchase these supplie but will have to delay shipment since there is no way to send anything to PR at this time. There remains a pre-Mania concern about a lack of factor to troat hemophiliacs coming from specially pharmacies and the inability to order more factor. The current count of factor will last the medical center a maximum of 3 days. The HKSA grantee is aware of one source of factor in PK, though the medical center does not have a current agreement with this source and, therefore, is currently unable to get factor from there. Given the estimated timeline to restore power, it is anticipated many hemophiliacs will be evacuated to FL, MA, NY, and NJ.
Indian Health Service	9/21/17	Christopher Jones	No unmet needs	Continue to communicate with Tribes	Continue to communicate with Tribes	None
National Institutes of Health National Security Council						
National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health			Region II was asked by grantees in PR about the ability	The Office of Minority Health (OMH) supported public	Support and push social media and other electronic	
			or recovery. The PHE_gov link to the form and procedure for temporary reassignment was provided to all Regional Health Administrators and all OASH offices, with particular note to the grant-making offices. Region II applied this immediately with PR, to facilitate reassignment of medically licensed personnel to Maria response.	facilitating interactions with national and regional media, and interacting with other federal departments and agencies involved in response. VIPR Title 5 family planning grant deliverable deadlines with the planning that deliverable deadlines have been extended at the request of Region II RHA, documented per the OASH Grants Management Official.	subscribers) and on the OMH website.	Office of Family Planning –All VIPR Title X family planning grantee clinics are closed. Office on Women's Health grantees – no shortfalls, concerns or issues at this time Office of Minority Health – State Offices of Minority Health – no shortfalls, concerns or issues at this time - Environmental Health Regional and HQ OASH staff continue to monitor environmental health concerns and participate in related working groups.
Office of Minority Health	9/28/17	Stacey Williams	Four of the 7 Regional Pediatric Centers and the 2 Autism Centers are open.	IRMA: Leslie Quiroz, Billingual Public Affairs Specialist, served as a Public Information Officer (PIO) for Hiffee (PIO) for	OMH will amplify messages and information about resources related to hurricane recovery efforts from the following accounts:	
Small Business Administration	9/28/17	John Valliere	Disaster Loan Program representatives on the ground in PR and VI; property loans and economic injury loans available Counseling programs with some limitations in PR and VI		Current application deadlines are: Irma property Nov 6-14 (depending on state), EIDL Jun 7-15; Maria about a week later. Expect most property deadlines to be expected as they approach.	
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration	(No recent update given)	Anne Herron	There are 5 health center service delivery sites in VI providing primary health care to approximately 17,000 people: 4 closed, 1 open with limited services due to the curfew.	both English and Spanish reminding citizens that the Disaster Distress Helpline is a clin or text away. SAMHSA has also processed OTP waivers allowing take home medications to be provided to maintain continuity of Medication Assisted Treatment in the impacted area. Behavioral health authorities have been supplied with up to date resources, tip sheets and information to serve their citizens.		NSTR
Veterans Affairs	9/29/17	Karen Pulsifer	Both Department of Health Maternal and Child Health Clinics (St. Thomas and St. Croix) are closed.		Continue to monitor for adverse situations within the impacted area. Continue to provide Veteran outreach to disaster survivors. Provide support to Federal and local partners as needed/requested.	



Α	В	c	D	E	F	G
OPDIV/STAFFDIV/AGENCY	Date	POC	On-Going Activities (Since Last Report)	Harvey Recovery Key Actions and Accomplishments	Future Actions	Issues/Shortfalls/Concerns
Administration for Children and Families		ACF SitRep	Tk and LA. Providers of A.E.P programs have been impacted in the region. AC OHSER and the Region 6 RBMS are in contact with program parterns to continue to identify and address long term needs and disruptions to ACF human services programs.	• One ACF staff member CDR Narvey Ball remains deployed to support the Health and Social Services Recovery Support Funtion at the Joint Field Office in Austin, TX • The Region 7 REMS Dan Houlahan will deploy tomorrow (21SEPT) to backfill the Health and Social Services Recovery Support Function position at the JPO in Austin, TX • THAN AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND A	Saturday 9/18/2017. As disaster survivors are provided with service, ACF will develop aggregate reports on the types of services being requested by diaster providers. This information will provide key insight into the needs of the affected population. *ACF will continue to identify impacts to ACF Programs *ACF will continue to support recovery efforts with an SMEs in the IFO.	
Administration for Community Living	9/28/17	EMG ACL Quad Charts Week Ending 9/29/17	Note problems with housing and DME in Harris county. ACL regional staffs to you address the DME waiver issue. ACL regional staffs is working with regional CMS to try to address the DME waiver issue. Area Agency on Aging (IAAA) of Golden Crescent Region (Located in Victoria - Counties: Calhoun, Dewtt, Golded, Gonzales, Acciona, Levace, Victoria) Received recovery supplies, such as adult deposable blank, montrion suppliement, waithcake was maintaining donated supplies, and a large waverhouse. At this time, they wanted to distribute all the remaining donations to needly organizations for their cilents. We picked up items for some clients on our valuing list and personally delivered to several of them. Staff attended meeting at Gulf Bend Center, our mental health saveral of the Hurricane on mental health services. The Center announced receipt of a special counseling grant they received to assist chiefer in the Schole districts and families received from the trauma of the Hurricane of the deteroided staffs and proton developed the schole of the settlement of	Coalition/Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council meeting. The purpose was to discuss what worked and lessons learned from Hurricane Harvey. Shelters, executation and continuity of care were main topics. Those in attendance included city officials, hospitals, mursing facilities, displuss centers, and home health agencies. Area Agency on Aging (IAAA) of Harris County: "Area Agency on Aging (IAAA) of Harris County: "And is a part of the City of Hosouth or Seniors who are not receiving services by traditional providers." Area Agency on Aging (IAAA) of the Capital Area (Itacated in Austin - Counties: Bastrop, Blanco, Blumet, Caldwell, Payatte, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis, Williamson) or Assisted two consumers with income support to fund rental deposit and utility assistance; used the appropriate Title ill funding source: Area Agency on Aging (IAAA) of Deep East Texas: (Iccated in Javer, Counties: Bastrop, Blanco, Blumet, Caldwell, ill funding source: Area Agency on Aging (IAAA) of Deep East Texas: (Iccated in Javer, Counties: Agency on Aging IAAA) of Separation, Assper, Macagdoches, Newton, Polit, Sabine, San Augustine, San Baction, Sehble, Timity, Yiper)	ACL continues to reach out to its programs.	Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Harris County (Rouston) reporting following: 3000 HEDICARE staff seem to be unaware of the CMS DME walver provisions which is problems and undue stress for seniors on DME replacement. Also reported that DME providers are not aware of the walver. Housing apartment complexes not making exceptions in 58 has month rent, credit checks, exceptions in 58 has month rent, credit checks, with disabilities. 9-3/26 Call with Houston Texas Disability Leaders Pressing Issues in Houston: FEMA Disabilities. 9-3/26 Call with Houston Texas Disability Leaders Pressing Issues in Houston: FEMA Disabilities are successful to the senior of the County of the
Assistant Secretary for Administration		Elizabeth Filauri	- GSA – (project based work) Requested evaluation of 48 federal buildings in flouron, 7X and surrounding areas FERMA—1 stress counselor) Requested stress counselor at Carson City, NV call center facility, Staff member deploying for 925 start FERMA—13 stress counselor) Requested stress counselor at Carson Fig. 926 start FERMA—13 stress counselors) Requested stress counselors to support basecamps in Houston, Corpus Christi, as well as the IPO in Austin, TX. Staff is in the process of deployed folicers) Requested an additional of safety officers to support response work in TX. This represents an additional of safet on top of the 6 already deploying as FERMA. Had and the NIRCC will be receiving file immunications following two responders contracting file in the field: - FERMA—15 stress counselors) FOH has consist stress counselors at the of 15 National Processing Service Center state FERMA—10 and 54 start for the Contract of the NIRCC will be receiving file in the field: - FERMA—10 nursels FOH is providing 347 nurse coverage at the FERMA coordination center in the NIRC FERMA—10 nursels FOH is providing 347 nurse coverage at the FERMA contractional and awaiting a refrigerator to accept vaccine. Taxm is fully engaged with this innocet assessment.	• FEMA – (I. nurse) FOH has one nurse located at Houston, Tx basecamp, Houston basecamp was closed due to lagnificant model saxes and other environmental health considerations. New basecamp being extablished. • GSA- project based world – Indoor environmental surse of the project based world – Indoor environmental stafety and diector spend for Houston, TX responder camp site. • GSA- project based) comprehensive moid assessment and remediation plan for large SSA field office in Jersey Village, TX. • GSA- project based world – Indoor environmental suscessment and research world project based world premai imaging and indoor environmental survey of federal lease space in Basumont, TX. • FEMA – ICI food inspection and safety reviews a FEMA Houston, TX base camp that will house LAOO reponders. • GSA- project based world Themsel mental that will house LAOO reponders. • GSA- project based world Themsel mental that will house LAOO reponders. • GSA- project based world Themsel mental that will house LAOO reponders. • GSA- project based world Themsel mental that will house LAOO reponders. • GSA- project based world Themsel mental and water testing of the entire Jack Brooks FB, Beaumont, TX federal facility. • FEMA – ICI food inspection and safety efficer) • FEMA – ICI food inspection and safety reviews at FEMA Houston, TX base camp that will house LAOO reponders.		NSTR
Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response		Joshua Barnes	Team is fully engaged with the impact assessment process focusing on health systems, behavioral health, environmental health, and kids in disasters.	announced the launch of "farvey by the Number's' website. Website shows what happened and how the City of Houston is responding. As of 1534 C5092/217, The City of Corpus Christi announced that they will have concluded their final debris removal sweep in two weeks. As of 1534 C5092/217, Humicane Relief bill was signed into a law giving targeted sax relief to the victims of the hurricanes. As of 1536 C57 097/29/17, Humicane Relief bill was signed into a law giving targeted sax relief to the victims of the hurricanes. As its person 1558 aciseszment pilot team traveled to the Aransa County TX sees 097/26/217 to begin observations and establishment of local contacts for human will be added to the local contacts of local contacts for observations and establishment of local contacts for sharper of local contacts for observations and establishment of local contacts for observations and local contacts for observations and lo	areas. "Working to develop approaches for supporting children/youth and behavioral health issues.	Environmental health, worker safety, and children/schools are top concerns moving forward with recovery.
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	9/29/17	LT Ijeoma Perry	- Communications toolkit for US based friends/families of PR and USY residents - Location-specific DMAT reports - Repervoir Keuticon Act (PRA) walver for Carbon Monoxide (CO) exposure assessment study - Preparing to deploy billingual (Eqilish/Spanish) team to support a JIC in PR and potentially USN - In discussion with OC Foundation to anticipate unmet to support a JIC in PR and potentially USN - Pillot testing of recovery landscape assessment commenced - Ongoing assessment of large number of private wells [FL] and review of needs of facilities for restoration/recovery - 3-4 staff (J ELDs and a molecular lab person) plus 1 sension epi will deploy to houstnot (pince activities are sension epi will deploy to houstnot (pince activities are sension epi will deploy to houstnot (pince activities are sension epi will deploy to houstnot (pince activities are sension epi will deploy to houstnot (pince activities are sension epi will deploy to houstnot (pince activities are sension epi will deploy to houstnot (pince activities are sension epi will deploy to houstnot (pince activities are sension epi will deploy to houstnot (pince activities are sension epi will deploy to houstnot (pince activities) - 3-4 staff (J ELDs and will be provided to the provided patients, that live in the Houston area and are cared for in two large houghla systems). - Ongoing work with TX DOH on prevention of mold exposure and Co potioning - Coordinating with ASPR and NIEPS field teams regarding ongoing moid sixue in the community - Ongoing promotion of asfe generator use and development of targeted training efforts using (RASP) flood data - NIOSH (in collaboration with environmental health) in	o ERAM PSA. How to Make Your Water Safe or Perpandens's Summit Abstract o SSM-5 Social Medial-Products Arriving in Puerto Rico o SSM-5 Social Medial-Revolucts Arriving in Puerto Rico o SSM-5 Social Medial-Messages for 2017 Huriticane Respo ne o Teat Sheet -Huricane Disaster and Emergancy Info Re sources - Documents in Clearance - Infographic - Outfit for Mold Cleanup - O Indial or Post Huricane Tips - O Hastard Disaster Environmental Data Review Procedur cs - O Hyer-Carling for Yourself and Your Family - O Yeventing Violence After a Natural Disaster - "Authma Carle Bed You, Guring, and After a Nurricane O - "Authma Carle Bed You, Guring, and After a Nurricane - O "Authma Carle Bed You, Guring, and After a Nurricane - O "Authma Carle Bed You, Guring, and After a Nurricane - O Carle Responsible State of the State of State of State - Authma Carle Bed Young, and After a Nurricane - O Coll Rich Recovery Task Farre is working with A. P.B.Ixt - Authma Carle Bed Young, and Carle State - O Year State of State of State - O Year State of State on Children's mental health - Sharing and States and emergency from Fore sources with - Valinciane disaster on children's mental health - Sharing Americane and emergency from Fore sources with - Valinciane disaster on children's mental health - Sharing Americane and emergency from Fore sources with - Valinciane disaster on children's mental health - Sharing Americane and emergency for Poresources with - O Coll Children State of College of Populary of State - O Evel Oped Implement of State - O Evel		Public Health Consideration of messaging to provide awareness on cholera and other waterborne, foodborne, or diarrheal disease following flood disasters Environmental Health Carbon monoxide exposure from generator use Invasive mole desposure Food Safety and Regulated Medical Products There is a need for provision of guidance on how to address spoiled flood Long-term Responder Health Issues Degloyed personnel are short staffed relative to occupational health task/need Concupational health task/need Long-term Responder Health Sause Degloyed personnel are short staffed relative to occupational health task/need Long-term flood Long-term Responder Health Issues Degloyed personnel are short staffed relative to occupational health task/need Long-term Responder Health Sause Degloyed personnel are short staffed relative to occupational head to short staffed relative to occupational head of tool to short staffed relative to occupational head of tool tool tool tool tool tool tool t



Lal	A	В	C	D	E	E	G	Н
7	ODDIN/STAFFDIN/Jacksicy	D-t-	noc	Co. Colon Assistato (Class Loss Borosa)	Harvey Recovery	F-t A-ti	I/6h	_
	OPDIV/STAFFDIV/AGENCY Centers for Medicare and Medicaid	9/29/17	CDR Jabal Chase	On-Going Activities (Since Last Report) Update on CMS facilities - Hurricane Harvey:	Made the following updates to CMS.gov this week:	CMS will continue to monitor the situation and	Issues/Shortfalls/Concerns NSTR	
	Services	27 6 27 6 7	compand crasc	o 2 hospital closed	On September 28, 2017 posted a document entitled	perform actions as necessitated by the situation.		
Н				o 14 nursing homes closed	"September 28, 2017 Guidance: 2017 Hurricane			
П				o 14 ICF/IID facilities closed o 7 dialysis centers closed	Disasters – Special Enrollment Periods (SEPs), Termination of Coverage, and Grace Period			
Н				o 7 dialysis centers closed	Flexibilities"			
Н				New Items since last report	Walvers:			
Н				CMS Chicago – DRA Gwen Sampson met with National Partiel Company to produce in contract to the contract of the contra	a Fifty-three requests for 3-day SNF waivers.			
Н				Baptist Convention leaders in early September. Dr. Michael Minor, National Director of H.O.P.E. HHS	o Five requests for OASIS waiver for home health agencies, referred to website as being blanket			
П				Partnership, convened a meeting between CMS and a	approved.			
П				group of faith leaders from 8 states. The primary topic of discussion was with receiving updates on the federal	o Seventeen requests for waiver of CAH 25-bed limit,			
П				response to Hurricane Harvey and how to best advise	96 hour length of stay limit; referred to website as blanket approvals.			
П				their congregations and partners directly impacted by				
П				this tragedy. CMS started by assuring the pastors that CMS, along with other federal partners, were heavily				
Ш				engaged in implementation of waivers and additional				
Ш				avenues of relief as afforded under a Medicaid 1135				
П				Waiver. CMS shared both hard and electronic copy of the Dallas Regional Office Partner newsletter, which				
П				highlights mitigation for flood disasters. The pastors				
П				expressed much appreciation for this information.				
П				Lastly faith leaders shared the importance of receiving continuous updates on federal disaster relief efforts in				
П				the coming weeks. We concluded by sharing regional				
9				point of contact information to all faith leaders in				
	Corporation for National and Community							
	Service Department of Agriculture	9/21/17	Steve Hartin	USDA Foods:	USDA Foods:	Additional foods may be delivered as requested	None	
П		-7-4/4/		On Sept. 18, Texas requested additional household-	The week of September 18, USDA delivered one truck e	SNAP		
П				sized USDA Foods. On 9/19, inventories for USDA Foods	ach of chili and beans to the Houston Food Bank SN			
П				from Rapid Response States were requested and gathered to support additional Foods needed for TX's	AP: • On September 9, 2017, FNS approved the Texas Health	begin September 22 and operate through October 5.		
П				Disaster Household Distribution Program. The week of	and Human Services Commission (HH5C) request to oper			
П					ate a Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Progra			
П				beans to the Houston Food Bank. On September 7, FNS (Food and Nutrition Service)	m (D-SNAP) in 39 counties that were impacted by Hurric ane Harvey. HHSC estimates that approximately 730,00			
П				approved Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) request	O households in 39 counties may apply for D-SNAP assist			
П				to implement a disaster household distribution program	ance and that 1,119,746 may receive automatic supplem ents. As soon as practicable, the State will provide FNS			
П				to approximately 23,000 hauseholds for a period up to four weeks. The disaster household distribution program				
П				is approved to start on Sept. 8. TDA will work with its	in three phases: local offices in affected counties, major			
П				partners, Feeding Texas and local food banks, to issue food boxes to participants located in presidentially-	ntake sites, and local offices outside of affected counties			
П				declared disaster areas. Each package will contain 25-30	. Application period for Phase 1 ran September 13 throu ah September 19. As of 9/17/2017: New Applications To			
Ш				pounds of USDA Foods and will be based on existing	ken – 15,108; New Approved – 9,300 households; 23,407			
П				shelf-stable items in identified food banks.	persons.			
Ш				SNAP:	 On September 15, FNS approved Texas to modify its D- SNAP operations to allow the State to continue to admin 			
Ш				Application period for Phase 1 of TX DSNAP ran	ister D-SNAP concurrently at designated counties/sites a			
Ш				September 13 through September 19. Phase 2 DSNAP application period is angoing in 7 counties through	nd in local affices throughout the State, to process D-SN AP applications in local affices that are not designated a			
Ш				September 25th.	s D-SNAP sites for 5 business days during normal workin			
Ш				On September 1, FNS approved a Supplemental	g hours within the same filing period, and to allow all ap			
ш				Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) policy to provide	plicants to apply with no alpha designated day. These m			
	Department of Education Department of Homeland Security - FEMA							-
14	Department of Homeland Security - NPPD							
	Department of Homeland Security - CRCL							-
	Department of Housing and Urban Development							
17	Department of the Interior							
	Department of Justice							-
	Department of Labor							
240	Department of Labor Department of Transportation							
21	Department of Transportation Department of the Treasury			End Barrer Andricks		A. CORD	ALGER .	
21	Department of Transportation	9/28/17	Sharon White	EPA Recovery Activities: • EPA ostablishing regional leads for recovery issues and	Recovery lead have been identified for each hurricane	NSTR	NSTR	
21	Department of Transportation Department of the Treasury	9/28/17	Sharon White	 EPA establishing regional leads for recovery issues and missions. 	Recovery lead have been identified for each hurricane response area.	NSTR	NSTR	
21	Department of Transportation Department of the Treasury	9/28/17	Sharon White	EPA establishing regional leads for recovery issues and missions. EPA does not have H&SS recovery activities at this	Recovery lead have been identified for each hurricane response area.	NSTR	NSTR	
21	Department of Transportation Department of the Treasury	9/28/17	Sharon White	 EPA establishing regional leads for recovery issues and missions. 	Recovery lead have been identified for each hurricane response area.	NSTR	NSTR	
21	Department of Transportation Department of the Treasury	9/28/17	Sharon White	 EPA establishing regional leads for recovery issues and missions. EPA does not have H&SS recovery activities at this time. 	Recovery lead have been identified for each hurricane response area.	NSTR	NSTR	
21	Department of Transportation Department of the Treasury	9/28/17	Sharon White		Recovery lead have been identified for each hurricane response area.	NSTR	NSTR	
21	Department of Transportation Department of the Treasury	9/28/17	Sharon White	*EPA establishing regional leads for recovery issues and missions. *EPA does not have H&SS recovery activities at this time. EPA RESPONSE Activities: *Prepare for and provide Rapid Assessment of Industrial Facilities as requested by the State or under	Recovery lead have been identified for each hurricane response area.	NSTR	NSTR	
21	Department of Transportation Department of the Treasury	9/28/17	Sharon White		Recovery load have been identified for each hurricane response area.	NSTR	NSTR	
21	Department of Transportation Department of the Treasury	9/28/17	Sharon White	*EPA establishing regional leads for recovery issues and missions. *EPA does not have H&SS recovery activities at this time. EPA RESPONSE Activities: *Prepare for and provide Rapid Assessment of Industrial Facilities as requested by the State or under EPA's statutory program reponsibilities for CERCLA Superfund, RMP affe Ffacilities.	Recovery lead have been identified for each hurricane response area.	NSTR	NSTR	
21	Department of Transportation Department of the Treasury	9/28/17	Sharon White	*EPA establishing regional leads for recovery issues and missions. *EPA does not have H&SS recovery activities at this time. EPA RESPONSE Activities: *Prepare for and provide Rapid Assessment of Industrial facilities as requested by the State or under EPA's statutory program responsibilities for CERCLA Superfund, RMP and FPP facilities. Voring with state partners, contact industrial sources within the impacted area to determine their operational status and	Recovery lead have been identified for each hurricane response area.	NSTR	NSTR	
21	Department of Transportation Department of the Treasury	9/28/17	Sharon White		Recovery load have been identified for each hurricane response area.	NSTR	NSTR	
21	Department of Transportation Department of the Treasury	9/28/17	Sharon White	*EPA establishing regional leads for recovery issues and missions. *EPA does not have H&SS recovery activities at this time. EPA RESPONSE Activities: *Prepare for and provide Rapid Assessment of Industrial facilities as requested by the State or under EPA's statutory program responsibilities for CERCLA Superfund, RMP and FPP facilities. Voring with state partners, contact industrial sources within the impacted area to determine their operational status and	Recovery lead have been identified for each hurricane response area.	NSTR	NSTR	
21	Department of Transportation Department of the Treasury	9/28/17	Sharon White		Recovery lead have been identified for each hurricane response area.	NSTR	NSTR	
21	Department of Transportation Department of the Treasury	9/28/17	Sharon White		Recovery load have been identified for each hurricane response area.	NSTR	NSTR	
21	Department of Transportation Department of the Treasury	9/28/17	Sharon White		Recovery lead have been identified for each hurricane response area.	NSTR	NSTR	
21	Department of Transportation Department of the Treasury		Sharon White Dominic Frasca		response area. • FDA facilities reports that the Houston RP requires	Follow visits (field inspections by FDA or TX state	Food Safety and Regulated Medical Products:	
21	Department of Transportation Department of the Treasury Environmental Protection Agency				FDA facilities reports that the Houston RP requires mold abattement be done—it will take 1 to 1.5 months.	Follow visits (field inspections by FDA or TX state staff) of regulated industry that indicated they	Food Safety and Regulated Medical Products: • Houston RP remains closed pending assessment	
21	Department of Transportation Department of the Treasury Environmental Protection Agency				*FDA facilities reports that the Houston RP requires mold abatement be done—it will take I to I.5 months before this is completed; Houston employees continue to work remotely in the meantline.	Follow visits (field inspections by FDA or TX state staff) of regulated industry that indicated they	Food Safety and Regulated Medical Products:	
21	Department of Transportation Department of the Treasury Environmental Protection Agency				•FDA facilities reports that the Houston RP requires mold abatement be done—it will take 1to 1.5 months before this is completed; Houston employees continue to work remotely in the meantime. •FDA's Deline Stateric (PAL-DO) and New Orleans (NOI-PAYS Deline Stateric (PAL-DO)) and New Orleans (NOI-PAYS Deline Stateric (PAL-DO)).	*Follow visits (field inspections by FDA or TX state staff) of regulated industry that indicated they were adversely affected (damage impacting)	Food Safety and Regulated Medical Products: *Nousion RP remains closed pending assessment and repairs; saff are teleworking/ working remotely. *FOA is assessing regulated industry potentially	
21	Department of Transportation Department of the Treasury Environmental Protection Agency				-FDA facilities reports that the Newton RP requires mold abatement be dont—it will take 1 to 1.5 menths before this is completed; Houston employees continue to work remodels in the meantime. -FDA's Dollas District (DAL-DO) and New Orleans (NOL-DO) have accessmed for 1000 of the presence IOA.	*Follow visits (field inspections by FDA or TX state staff) of regulated industry that indicated they were adversely affected (damage impacting)	Food Safety and Regulated Medical Products: • Houston RP remains closed pending assessment and repairs; staff are teleworking/ working remotely.	
21	Department of Transportation Department of the Treasury Environmental Protection Agency				•FDA facilities reports that the Houston RP requires mold abatement be done—it will take 1to 1.5 months before this is completed; Houston employees continue to work remotely in the meantime. •FDA's Deline Stateric (PAL-DO) and New Orleans (NOI-PAYS Deline Stateric (PAL-DO)) and New Orleans (NOI-PAYS Deline Stateric (PAL-DO)).	*Follow visits (field inspections by FDA or TX state staff) of regulated industry that indicated they were adversely affected (damage impacting)	Food Safety and Regulated Medical Products: *Nousion RP remains closed pending assessment and repairs; saff are teleworking/ working remotely. *FOA is assessing regulated industry potentially	
21	Department of Transportation Department of the Treasury Environmental Protection Agency				•FDA facilities reports that the Houston RP requires mold ablatement be done—it will take 1to 1.5 months before this is completed; Houston employees continue to work remotely in the meantime. •FDA's Delilla Solvieri (DAI-DO) and New Orleans (ROLD) DO) have accounted for 100% of their personnel. DAI-DO's Houston Resident Post remains located for an 90% in the solvier personnel content of the Daily Solvier Post remains located for an 90% of their personnel. DAI-DO's Houston Resident Post remains located for an 90% of the Post Post Resident Post remains located and model to the building. All other FDA Solviers in Texas and Louisions are open and the personnel	*Follow visits (field inspections by FDA or TX state staff) of regulated industry that indicated they were adversely affected (damage impacting)	Food Safety and Regulated Medical Products: *Nousion RP remains closed pending assessment and repairs; saff are teleworking/ working remotely. *FOA is assessing regulated industry potentially	
21	Department of Transportation Department of the Treasury Environmental Protection Agency				•FDA facilities reports that the Houston RP requires mod abatement be done—it will take 1 to 1.5 months before this is completed; Houston employees continue. •FDA's Dollar Division (10.1.0) and Mew Orleans (NOL-DO's Houston Resident Post and Post Post (10.1.0) and Mew Orleans (NOL-DO's Houston Resident Post remains closed (as an 9/20) due to water damage (and mod) to the building. All other FDA facilities in Texas and Laukisnaa are open and underanged. Muston Resident Post personnel Cast	*Follow visits (field inspections by FDA or TX state staff) of regulated industry that indicated they were adversely affected (damage impacting)	Food Safety and Regulated Medical Products: *Nousion RP remains closed pending assessment and repairs; saff are teleworking/ working remotely. *FOA is assessing regulated industry potentially	
21	Department of Transportation Department of the Treasury Environmental Protection Agency				•FDA facilities reports that the Houston RP requires mold ablatement be done—it will take 1to 1.5 months before this is completed; Houston employees continue to work remotely in the meantime. •FDA's Delilla Solvieri (DAI-DO) and New Orleans (ROLD) DO) have accounted for 100% of their personnel. DAI-DO's Houston Resident Post remains located for an 90% in the solvier personnel content of the Daily Solvier Post remains located for an 90% of their personnel. DAI-DO's Houston Resident Post remains located for an 90% of the Post Post Resident Post remains located and model to the building. All other FDA Solviers in Texas and Louisions are open and the personnel	*Follow visits (field inspections by FDA or TX state staff) of regulated industry that indicated they were adversely affected (damage impacting)	Food Safety and Regulated Medical Products: *Nousion RP remains closed pending assessment and repairs; saff are teleworking/ working remotely. *FOA is assessing regulated industry potentially	
21	Department of Transportation Department of the Treasury Environmental Protection Agency				•FDA facilities reports that the Houston RP requires mold abatement be done—it will take I to 1.5 months before this is completed; Houston employees continue to work remotely in the meantime. •FDAS Dallies Statistic (IAAL DO) and New Orients (ROLD) DO) have accounted for 100% of their personnel. DAI- DO's Houston Resident Post remains locked (an an 97.0) due to woter damage (and mold) to the building. All other FDA facilities in Feres and laudisma are open and undamaged. Houston Resident Post personnel are working remotely. •FDA GIS team prepared maps and firms lists of patentially effected FDA regulated industry. FDA	*Follow visits (field inspections by FDA or TX state staff) of regulated industry that indicated they were adversely affected (damage impacting	Food Safety and Regulated Medical Products: *Nousion RP remains closed pending assessment and repairs; saff are teleworking/ working remotely. *FOA is assessing regulated industry potentially	
21	Department of Transportation Department of the Treasury Environmental Protection Agency				•FDA facilities reports that the Houston RP requires moid abatement be done—it will take I to LS months before this is completed; Houston employees continue to work remotely in the meantime. •FAS Solidis Solvet (EAL 200) and New Orleans (NOLDO) have accounted for 100% of their personnel CAL- DO's Houston Resident Post remains losed (so on APA) or the Solidis Solidis of the Solidis on a report and undermaged. Houston Resident Post personnel are working remotely. •FAD Gistliers in Texas and fundations are open and undermaged. Houston Resident Post personnel are working remotely. •FAD Gistliers for the Post personnel are product center subject matter experts screened the list.	*Follow visits (field inspections by FDA or TX state staff) of regulated industry that indicated they were adversely affected (damage impacting	Food Safety and Regulated Medical Products: *Nousion RP remains closed pending assessment and repairs; saff are teleworking/ working remotely. *FOA is assessing regulated industry potentially	
21	Department of Transportation Department of the Treasury Environmental Protection Agency				*FDA facilities reports that the Houston RP requires mold abatement be done—it will take 1 to 1.5 months before this is completed; Houston employees continue to work remotely in the meantime. **PAN's Delilas Stater (IAA': DO) and New Orleans (NOLDO) have accounted for 100% of their personnel. DAI-DO's Houston Resident Post remains bodied 1 on #9/30 due to water damage (and mode) to the building. All other POSI Academies I resum and custions are agreen development of the personnel complete the personn	*Follow visits (field inspections by FDA or TX state staff) of regulated industry that indicated they were adversely affected (damage impacting	Food Safety and Regulated Medical Products: *Nousion RP remains closed pending assessment and repairs; saff are teleworking/ working remotely. *FOA is assessing regulated industry potentially	
21	Department of Transportation Department of the Treasury Environmental Protection Agency				•FDA facilities reports that the Newston RP requires moid abstracted by the control of the cont	*Follow visits (field inspections by FDA or TX state staff) of regulated industry that indicated they were adversely affected (damage impacting	Food Safety and Regulated Medical Products: *Nousion RP remains closed pending assessment and repein; saff are teleworking/ working remotely. *FOA is assessing regulated industry potentially	
21	Department of Transportation Department of the Treasury Environmental Protection Agency				*FDA facilities reports that the Houston RP requires mold abatement be done—it will take 1 to 1.5 months before this is completed; Houston employees continue to work remotely in the meantime. **PAN's Delilas Stories (IAA-DO) and New Orleans (NOLDO) have accounted for 100% of their personnel. DALDO) have accounted for 100% of their personnel. DALDO) have accounted for 100% of their personnel. DALDO's Houston Resident Post remons located ion an 920 due to water damage fand mold) to the building. All other FDA facilities in Teams and Louisian are open end undermaged. Mouston Resident Post personnel are "PDA GO's team product cortex subject entater experts screened the list and created a ranking of high priority firms for assessment. **PDA DO and NOL-DO formed a jaint (merged) incident Management Team (IMT) to access regulated industyre.	*Follow visits (field inspections by FDA or TX state staff) of regulated industry that indicated they were adversely affected (damage impacting	Food Safety and Regulated Medical Products: *Nousion RP remains closed pending assessment and repein; saff are teleworking/ working remotely. *FOA is assessing regulated industry potentially	
21	Department of Transportation Department of the Treasury Environmental Protection Agency				*FDA facilities reports that the Houston RP requires mold abatement be done—it will table 1to 1.5 months before this is completed; Houston employees continue to work remotely in the meantime. **FAX* solials Soliarite (IAA-IDO) and New Orleans (NOL-IDO) have accounted for 100% of their personnel. DAI-DOY; Houston Resident Post remons local go an #3/10. due to water damage fand mold) to the building. All other FDA Facilities in Texas and Louisian are open and undamaged. Houston Resident Post personnel are working remotely. **FDA GE texan prepared maps and firms lists of presentially affected FDA-regulated industry; TDA protected for anxiety of high priority firms for an extraction of the protected or anxiety of high priority firms for accessment. **PDA DO and NOL-IDO fermed a joint (merged) incident Management Team [MIT1] to assex regulated industry; assessments begon with telephone screenings on \$%71.7.	Follow visits (field inspections by FDA or TX state staff) of regulated industry that indicated they were adversely affected (damage impacting operations or affecting FDA regulated products)	Food Safety and Regulated Medical Products: *Nousion RP remains closed pending assessment and repein; saff are teleworking/ working remotely. *FOA is assessing regulated industry potentially	
21	Department of Transportation Department of the Treasury Environmental Protection Agency				*FDA facilities reports that the Neuston RP requires moid abatement be done—it will take 1 to 1.5 months before this is completed; Houston employees continue to work removely in the meantime. *FDA's Dalliss District (DAL-DO) and New Orleans (NOL-DO's Houston Resident Post remains closed (as on 9/20) due to water damage (and mod) to the building. All other FDA facilities in Texas and Lausianna are open and undamaged. Nation Resident Post personnel David Workson Resident Post personnel David Workson Resident Post servened the list workson removely: "DAG 651 team prepared maps and firms fists of patentially affected FDA-regulated industry; IDA David Monther FDA (David Mol. Do of mered a) pint (merged) incident Management Team (IMT) to assess requisited industry; IDA David Mol. David Mol. Do of mered a) pint (merged) incident Management Team (IMT) to assess requisited industry; assessments begon with telephone zeroenings on 9/5/17. **The DAL-MOL-joint IMT is partnering with State health	Follow visits (field inspections by FDA or TX state staff) of regulated industry that indicated they were adversely affected (damage impacting operations or affecting FDA regulated products)	Food Safety and Regulated Medical Products: *Nousion RP remains closed pending assessment and repein; saff are teleworking/ working remotely. *FOA is assessing regulated industry potentially	
21	Department of Transportation Department of the Treasury Environmental Protection Agency				*FDA facilities reports that the Houston RP requires mold abatement be done—it will table 1to 1.5 months before this is completed; Houston employees continue to work remotely in the meantime. **FAX* solials Soliarite (IAA-IDO) and New Orleans (NOL-IDO) have accounted for 100% of their personnel. DAI-DOY; Houston Resident Post remons local go an #3/10. due to water damage fand mold) to the building. All other FDA Facilities in Texas and Louisian are open and undamaged. Houston Resident Post personnel are working remotely. **FDA GE texan prepared maps and firms lists of presentially affected FDA-regulated industry; TDA protected for anxiety of high priority firms for an extraction of the protected or anxiety of high priority firms for accessment. **PDA DO and NOL-IDO fermed a joint (merged) incident Management Team [MIT1] to assex regulated industry; assessments begon with telephone screenings on \$%71.7.	Follow visits (field inspections by FDA or TX state staff) of regulated industry that indicated they were adversely affected (damage impacting operations or affecting FDA regulated products)	Food Safety and Regulated Medical Products: *Nousion RP remains closed pending assessment and repein; saff are teleworking/ working remotely. *FOA is assessing regulated industry potentially	
21	Department of Transportation Department of the Treasury Environmental Protection Agency				*FDA facilities reports that the Houston RP requires mold abatement be done—it will table 1to 1.5 months before this is completed; Houston employees continue to work remotely in the meantime. **FAX* solials Soliarite (IAA-IDO) and New Orleans (NOL-IDO) have accounted for 100% of their personnel. DAI-DOY; Houston Resident Post remons local gos an 93/10. due to water damage fand mold) to the building. All other FDA Facilities in Peass and Louisions are open and undamaged. Houston Resident Post personnel are working remotely. **FDA GD Exem prepared maps and firms lists of pretentially affected FDA regulated industry; FDA personnel are working remotely. **PDA GD Exem prepared maps and firms lists of pretentially affected FDA regulated industry; FDA and Created a ronking of high priority firms for a contract of a ronking of high priority firms for a contract of a ronking of high priority firms for a contract of a ronking of high priority firms for a contract of a ronking of high priority firms for a research of the properties of the priority firms for the properties of the priority firms for a research of the priority firms for a remove firms for a remo	Follow visits (field inspections by FDA or TX state staff) of regulated industry that indicated they were adversely affected (damage impacting operations or affecting FDA regulated products)	Food Safety and Regulated Medical Products: *Nousion RP remains closed pending assessment and repein; saff are teleworking/ working remotely. *FOA is assessing regulated industry potentially	



OPDIV/STAFFDIV/AGENCY	Date	POC	On-Going Activities (Since Last Report)	Harvey Recovery Key Actions and Accomplishments	Future Actions	Issues/Shortfalls/Concerns	
Health Resources and Services Administration		Todd Lennon	Report on the status of HRSA program participants'	Key Actions and Accomplishments Resource links provided by CDC for emergency wound management and tetanus were published in the	HRSA will organize a response of Public Health	Healthcare Services There are 151 health center service delivery sites i	
Administration			delivery of health care services. • Provide information on HRSA's programs.	Primary Health Care Digest.		n the 29 Texas counties with an Individual Assistance	
			 Provide subject matter expertise on vulnerable populations. 	A new resource guide produced by Capital Link, a BPHC-funded National Cooperative Agreement, and	with access to food pantries, shelters and other resources for patents.	major disaster declaration. These sites serve approx imately 518,695 people. As of 9/27, three of these si	
			Provide technical assistance to program participants regarding HRSA program flexibilities.	published in the Primary Health Care Digest, provides detailed information on eligibility and application.	 HRSA will continue ongoing activities, provide support as needed to program participants, and 	tes remain closed and their status is unchanged from last week:	
			Participate with working groups focused on maternal and child health, behavioral health, human services, and		provide support to the interagency recovery effort.	o Gulf Coast Health Center-Hwy 73, 3701 TX-73, Port Arthur, TX 77642	
			recovery.	Providers by Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) Deemed		■ Extensive water and mold remediation is needed.	
				Health Centers in Response to Certain Declared Emergency Situations. It clarifies the credentialing and		Flooding and roof leakage was noted. No estimated date for resuming site operations has been determin	
				privileging documentation required to support temporary privileging of clinical providers (including		ed yet. Patients are being seen at three temporary mobile sites in the meantime.	
				volunteers) by health centers in response to certain declared emergency situations.		o Gulf Coast Health Center-Orange, 1301 W. Park Ave nue, Suite C, Orange, TX 77630	
				HRSA continues to deploy staff to support the H&SS RSF team in Austin.		Extensive water and mold remediation is needed. Flooding and roof leakage was noted. No estimated	
				• HRSA connected the Texas Association of Community		date for resuming site operations has been determin	
				Health Centers with the H&SS RSF. • Addressing a concern raised by the Texas Association		ed yet. Patients are being seen in a borrowed mobil e unit on the premises.	
				of Community Health Centers, a teleconference with the Health Center Program, the H&SS RSF, and ASPR		o Spring Branch Community Health Center-Katy Clini c, 5502 1st Street, Katy, TX 77493	
				discussed the provider shortage at health centers. • HRSA provided the Harvey Health and Social Services		Meavily damaged, but renovations have begun. Re novation costs are estimated at \$92,000. Renovation	
				Recovery Support Function coordinator with grantee contact information to contact them about the FEMA		s are projected to be complete by the end of Octobe r. Patients are being seen in a mobile unit.	
Indian Health Service	9/8/17	Christopher Jones	Continue to respond to Tribes accordingly, but no unmet	All requests were fulfilled. No unmet needs	Continue to communicate to Tribes.	NSTR	
		No recent updates	needs				
		in EM Portal.					
National Institutes of Health	9/29/17	Chip Hughes	NIEHS and local partners continue work to implement a training system and organization in the Houston metro	Continued making connections with federal and local partners, and attended meetings with rans from IEO	Develop NIEHS training list/worker training map to increase visibility of Hurricane Harvey efforts and	Limited availability of local trainers to address training needs account the 39 effected counting	
1			area. This will include development of a Harvey Safety	NIOSH, Texas Department State Health Services, TX	to report worker training successes.	Limited availability and funding of PPE (e.g., N95	
1			Training Institute, course catalogue, trainer network, website, and advisory board.	Commission on Environmental Quality, and Texas Workforce Commission.	 Collaborate with NIOSH linking disaster worker training to Emergency Responder Health 	respirators)	
1			NIEHS and local partners are working to adapt an existing worker training curricula matrix (used for	 Emergency Response Team members from WTP grantee United Steelworkers delivered a 2 Hour Health 	Monitoring and Surveillance (ERHMS).		
1			Hurricane Sandy) for use in Houston and surrounding areas.	and Safety Awareness training on Hurricane and Flood Hazards to 28 day laborers and community members			
			3. Developing a process with local partners to submit	that was conducted in Spanish at the Avenue CDC – Homeownership Center.			
			training requests and reports, is being finalized for internal use.	WTP Grantee Dr. Robert Bullard, Texas Southern			
			Gather information from environmental health researchers on their current projects and future plans	University, set up a 2-hour community meeting with approximately 15 people representing 8 different			
			regarding research around Hurricane Harvey	organizations on Tuesday at the Kashmere Multiservice Center in the 5th Ward to hear about Hurricane Harvey			
				impacts to residences and share NIEHS resources to support training of community and workers.			
				NIEHS and WTP grantees had a conference call with representatives from the American Federation of			
				Teachers (AFT), who represents teachers and janitors in			
				Houston and surrounding areas. Training needs identified and addressed: Disseminate/share			
				information about FEMA resources to members and share health and safety information to raise awareness			
				of clean-up hazards in schools and residences (e.g., mold).			
National Voluntary Organizations Active in				anneway!			
Disaster Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health	9/29/17	Wanda Jones	As of 9/22/17:	As of 9/15/17:	Support and push social media and other	Public Health	
			Regions II, IV, VI and headquarters OASH staff are maintaining Situational Awareness of local, State,	Due to the great support last week and meeting the blood needs, the Disaster Task Force was deactivated	electronic delivery of messages from HHS components, with resources related to hurricane	Office of Family Planning – One family planning clinic in the Corpus Christi area remains closed. The	
			Regional, and Federal response to include recovery	9/15/17.	recovery.	Sinton clinic has been repaired and reopened.	
			efforts with all three recent hurricanes.	The OHAIDP Blood & Tissue Safety and Availability Team have been coordinating Department-wide efforts	 OMH will also feature items about hurricane recovery in its newsletters (which reach 50,000+ 	 Office on Women's Health grantees – no shortfalls, concerns or issues at this time 	
				towards the OASH Mission Essential Function (MEF) of ensuring a safe and available blood and tissue supply	subscribers) and on the OMH website. • Continue to maintain situational awareness of	Office of Minority Health – State Offices of Minority Health - no shortfalls, concerns or issues at	
				during all hazards. Additionally, OHAIDP/Blood & Tissue Staff serve as the primary federal liaisons to the private-	family planning clinics and blood supply issues.	this time	
				sector AABB Blood Disaster Task Force, with the		Environmental Health	
				American Red Cross, America's Blood Centers, and Blood Centers of America, American Association of Tissue		Regional and HQ OASH staff continue to monitor environmental health concerns and participate in	
				Banks, American Hospital Association, and the Department of Defense.		related working groups.	
				OHAIDP has been continuing its Blood Safety and Availability work in response to Hurricane Harvey and			
				Hurricane Irma. The main issues have addressed ensuring blood products are available and delivered to			
				the medical treatment facilities that need these products			
Office of Inspector General, HHS	9/29/17	Kyu Sin	No updates. As of 9/22/17:	No updates. As of 9/22/17:	NSTR	NSTR	
			OIG is an active member in Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency's (CIGIE) Disaster	OIG deployed 52 Special Agents to support ESF-13 efforts for Hurricane Harvey relief. Special Agents were			
			Assistance Working Group (DAWG) which coordinates	onsite in Texas from August 28th - September 10th.			
			information sharing and auersiaht of solid fundion	Special Agents provided assistance to the following			
			information sharing and oversight of relief funding across the Inspector General community. The third	Special Agents provided assistance to the following missions: Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs),			
			across the Inspector General community. The third iteration of this group was reactivated to respond to Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. The National Center for				
			across the Inspector General community. The third iteration of this group was reactivated to respond to Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. The Notional Center for Disaster Fraud has already received more than 500	missions: Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs), search and rescue, and base camp site security (NRG			
			across the Inspector General community. The third literation of this group was reactivated to respond to Hurricanes Money and Irms. The Notional Center for Disaster Fraud has aiready received more than 500 complaints. They typically see spikes at about 5 and 24 months after a disaster. The group met on September	missions: Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs), search and rescue, and base camp site security (NRG			
			across the Inspector General community. The third interaction of this group was reactivated to respond to Hurricones Horvey and Irmn. The National Center for Obsister Frouth as already received more than 500 comploints. They typically see spikes at about 5 and 24 months after a dissuter. The group met an September 18th and is in the process of organizing Into three subgroups fecued on – 3)	missions: Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs), search and rescue, and base camp site security (NRG			
			across the inspector General community. The third iteration of this group was reactivated to respond to Hurriscens Horvey and Irms. The Notional Center for Obsister Froud has already received more than 500 compliohits. They topically see spikes at about 5 and 34 months after a dissester. They aroup mort on September 18th and is in the process of organizing into three subgroups Facused on — 1] Audit/Impactions/Evoluations; 2) Investigations; and 3) Data Analytics.	missions: Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs), search and rescue, and base camp site security (NRG			
			across the Inspector General community. The third iteration of this group was reactivistied to respond to Hurrisones Hanvey and Irms. The National Center for Disaster Found has already received more than 500 complaints. They typically see spikes at about 5 and 24 months after a disaster. The group met on September 18th and is in the process of organizing into three subgroups focused on = 13 Adult/Inspectional/Pobladtions; 21 (investigations; and 3)	missions: Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs), search and rescue, and base camp site security (NRG			
			across the inspector General community. The third interestion of this group was reactivated to respond to Interitones Horacy and Irina. The National Center for Unsater Frout has already received more than 300 complioists. They typically was palkes at about 5 and 24 months after a disease; he care for a size of the si	missions: Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs), search and rescue, and base camp site security (NRG			
			across the inspector General community. The third interestion of this group was reactivated to respond to Interitones Horacy and Irina. The National Center for Unsurer Frout Post and Irina. The National Center for Obsider Frout Post and End Section Section 1 and Irina the Post	missions: Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs), search and rescue, and base camp site security (NRG			
			across the inspector General community. The third iteration of this group was reactivated to respond to Hurriscens Horvey and Irms. The Notional Center for Unsater Found has already received more than 500 compliohist. They typically see spikes at about 50 and 34 months after a disaster. They aroup mort on September 18th and is in the process of organizing into three subgroups Facused on — 1] Audit/Impactions/Evoluations; 21 investigations; and 3) Data Analytics. • LOIG, along with other Federal, State, and local low enforcement agencies, is engaged in the Hollywood Hill, Florida, mursing home incident and continues to monitor other areas impacted by the recent hurriscense.	missions: Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs), search and rescue, and base camp site security (NRG			
Office of Intergovernmental and External	9/21/17	Niški Brotcher-	across the inspector General community. The third interestion of this group was reactivated to respond to Intericanes Horvey and Irms. The National Center for Obsister Froud has already received more than 500 compliohist. They typically see spikes of about 5 and 24 months after a disaster. They aroup mort on September 18th and is in the process of organizing into three 18th process of one 11 superprocess of an 11 superprocess. Audit (Impactional Psychologists), 21 investigations, and 30 than 4 milytis. **Olic Allange along the Area of the September of the Sept	missions: Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs), search and rescue, and base camp site security (NRG			
Office of Intergovernmental and External	9/21/17	Mikki Brotcher- Bownan	across the inspector General community. The third interestion of this group was reactivated to respond to Hurricanes Harvey and Irms. The Notional Center for Obsister Froud has already received more than 500 comploints. They typically see spikes of about 5 and 34 months after a disaster. They aroup mort on September 18th and is in the process of organizing into three subgroups facused on — 1] Audit/Impactions/Evolucations, 2/ Investigations; and 3) Data Analytics. **Olic, along with a other Federal, State, and local law engineering and the inclination of the Control of	missions: Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs), search and rescue, and base camp site security (NRG			
	9/21/17		across the inspector General community. The third iteration of this group was reactivated to respond to Hurricanes Horvey and Irma. The National Center for Obsister Found has already received more than 500 compliohist. They typically see spikes at about 5 and 34 months after a disaster. They aroup mort on September 18th and is in the process of organizing into three subgroups focused on — 1] Audit/Impactions/Evoluations, 2] Investigations, and 3) Data Analytics. • OliG, along with other Federal, State, and local low enforcement agencies, is engaged in the Holywood Hilly, Florida, mursing home incident and continues to monitor other areas impacted by the recent hurricanes. • OliG is prepared to provide technical assistance to the Department on grants oversight and other program integrity issues, including duliptication of benefits. 1) Regional Director Joined CMS Administrator in Houston on ARJS for activities, including visit to dialysis to dialysis to dialysis.	missions: Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs), search and rescue, and base camp site security (NRG			
	9/21/17		across the inspector General community. The third interestion of this group was reactivated to respond to Interitones Horacy and Irms. The National Center for Disaster Froud has already received more than 300 complioists. They system is already received more than 300 complioists. They system is explicit and of and 24 months after a disaster. The group more of september 21th and is in the process of organizing into these 21th and is in the process of organizing into these 21th and is in the process of organizing into these 10th, and in the process of organizing into these 10th, and in the process of organizing into these office of the process of organizing into the admittal process of the process of organization of the process of the process of organization of the process of t	missions: Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs), search and rescue, and base camp site security (NRG			
	9/21/17		across the inspector General community. The third interestion of this group was reactivated to respond to Interitones Horvey and Irms. The National Center for Unsater Frou Bas a dieady received more than 300 compilations. They systemly we spikes at about 5 and 24 months after a disease; he care for a special process of organizing into these 12th and is in the process of organizing into these 12th and is in the process of organizing into these 12th and is in the process of organizing into these 12th and in the process of organizing into these 12th and is in the process of organizing into these office, in the process of organizing into the organization of the organization organization organization organization organization organization organization organization organization org	missions: Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs), search and rescue, and base camp site security (NRG			
	9/21/17		across the inspector General community. The third interestion of this group was reactivated to respond to Hurricanes Horvey and Irms. The National Center for Unsater Frou Box already received more than 500 complioists. They typically see spikes at about 5 and 24 months after a disease; here were not necessary to the state of the spikes of the state of the spikes of the state of the spikes of	missions: Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs), search and rescue, and base camp site security (NRG			
	9/21/17		across the inspector General community. The third interestion of this group was reactiveted to respond to Intericanes Horavy and Irms. The National Center for Obstater Found has already received more than 500 comploints. They typically see spikes at about 5 and 34 months after a disaster. They aroung mort in September 13th and is in the process of organizing into three 13th most is not process of organizing into three subgroups focused on — 1) Audit/Impactions/Evolusations, 21 investigations; and 3) Data Analytics. **Olic, along with other Federal, State, and local low engineering approach, is engaged in the Hollywood Hills, Florida, mursing home incident and continues to monitor other areas impacted by the recent hurstranes. **Olic is prepared to provide technical assistance to the Department on grants oversight and other program integrity issues, including duplication of benefits. **July Repland Discrept priors CASS Administrators in Houston on 8/18 for activities, including with to dialysis facility where between younders and Ministrators of Rospers and Michael Burgess. The RD toursel Ben Taub hospital with the CASS Administrators of Amelia and the Program and Michael Burgess. The RD toursel Ben Taub hospital with the CASS Administrators of Amelia and the Program and Michael Burgess. The RD toursel Ben Taub hospital with the CASS Administrator of Amelia and the Program and Michael Burgess. The RD toursel Ben Taub hospital with the CASS Administrator of Amelia and the Program and Michael Burgess. The RD toursel Ben Taub hospital working with Texas Department of Squit response to waview approvals in the wake of the Hurricone. 2) JHIS is waving with Texas Department of Squit response to waview approvals in the wake of the Hurricone. 2) JHIS is	missions: Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs), search and rescue, and base camp site security (NiRG Stadium).			
	9/21/17		across the inspector General community. The third interestion of this group was reactivated to respond to Intericanes Horavy and Irms. The National Center for Obstater Found has already received more than 500 comploints. They typically see spikes at about 5 and 34 months after a disaster. They aroung mort on September 13th and is in the process of organizing into three 13th most is not process of organizing into three subgroups focused on — 1) Audit/Impactions/Evolusations, 21 investigations; and 3) Data Analytics. **Olic, along with other Federal, State, and local low engineering approach, is engaged in the Hollywood Hills, Florida, mursing home incident and continues to monitor other areas impacted by the recent humistanes. **Olic is prepared to provide technical assistance to the Department on grants oversight and other program integrity issues, including duplication of benefits. **July Repland Discrept priored. KAS Administrator's in Houston on 8/18 for activities, including with to dialysis facility where between priored KAS Administrator's Accountation of dishysis patients was discussed. The RD toursel Ben Taulo hospital with the CAS Administrator's Amelian with the CAS Administrator's Amelian with the control of the program and Michael Burgess. The RD toursel Ben Taulo hospital with the CAS Administrator's Amelian with the ACM Administrator of a Compension of Center and Michael Burgess. The RD toursel Ben Taulo hospital with the CAS Administrator of a Compension of Center and Michael Burgess. The RD toursel Ben Taulo hospital with the CAS Administrator of a Compension of Center and Michael Burgess. The RD toursel Ben Taulo hospital with the CAS Administrator of a Compension of Center and Michael Burgess. The RD toursel Ben Taulo hospital working with Trease Department of Facilities such as day of the Michael Burgess. The RD toursel Ben Taulo hospital working with Trease Popularies for folialities and an adoptive patient of the CAS Administrator of the CAS Administrator of the CAS Administrator of the	missions: Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs), search and rescue, and base camp site security (NiRG Stadium).			
	9/21/17		across the inspector General community. The third interestion of this group was reactivated to respond to Hurstranes Horvey and Irms. The National Center for Obstater Found has already received more than 500 comploints. They typically see spikes at about 5 and 34 months after a disaster. They around not not spetember 18th and is in the process of organizing into three 18th process of organizing into three 18th process of organizing into three 18th process of the 18th process of organizing into three 18th process of the 18th process of organizing into three 18th process of the 18th process of organizing into three 18th process of the 18th	missions: Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs), search and rescue, and base camp site security (NiRG Stadium).			
	9/21/17		across the inspector General community. The third interestion of this group was reactivated to respond to Interiornes Horvey and Irms. The National Center for Obsister Froud has already received more than 500 compliaints. They typically see spikes at about 5 and 34 months after a disaster. The group more of high properties of the process of organizing into three subsprough Ecucation 5.1 most process of organizing into three subsprough Ecucations, 21 investigations; and 31 Adalf Integrations/Evoluciations, 21 investigations; and 31 Adalf Integrations/Evoluciations, 21 investigations; and 32 Adalf Integrations/Evoluciations, 21 investigations and scale we affacement agencies, is engaged in the Hollywood Hills, Endida, nursing inhother federal, State, and local low enforcement agencies, is engaged in the Hollywood Hills, Endida, nursing inhother indevident and continues to monitor other areas impacted by the recent hurricanes. 10 (Gi is perported to provide technical assistance to the Department on grants oversight and other program integrity issues, including duplicational of henefits. 1) Regional Director foined CMS Administrator in Houston on ATAS for activities, including visit to dialysis patients was discussed. The RIO toured Ben Taule hospital with the CMS Administrator and Conjustion and Houston on ATAS for activities, including visit to dialysis patients was discussed. The RIO toured Ben Taule hospital with the CMS Administrator and Conjusters and Michael Surviva and Michael Surviva Commissioner over CMS's quick response to waiving approach in the wask of the Harroon. 2 J Hills is working with Texas Department of State Health Services using data overview with Flooral moderal or and in the Glorial and comply into the constraints.	missions: Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs), search and rescue, and base camp site security (NiRG Stadium).			
	9/21/17		across the inspector General community. The third interestion of this group was reactivated to respond to Hurricanes Horvey and Irms. The National Center for Obsister Froud has already received more than 500 compliohist. They typically see spikes of about 5 and 34 months after a disaster. The group more than 500 compliohist. They typically see spikes of about 5 and 34 months after a disaster. The group more of September 18th and is in the process of organizing into three 18th more independent of the process of organizing into three 18th process of one 11 Audit Impactional Productions, 21 investigations; and 3) DOI 10.00. The control of the process of organizing into three substitutions, 21 investigations and 10.00. The control of t	missions: Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs), search and rescue, and base camp site security (NiRG Stadium).			
	9/21/17		across the inspector General community. The third interestion of this group was reactivated to respond to Hurricanes Horvey and Irms. The Notional Center for Obstater Found has already received more than 500 compliohist. They typically see spikes at about 5 and 24 months after a disease; here were the spikes of and 24 months after a disease; he group and the process of organizing lato three 18th and is in the process of organizing lato three 18th and is in the process of organizing lato three 18th and is in the process of organizing lato three 18th and 18	missions: Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs), search and rescue, and base camp site security (NiRG Stadium).			
	9/21/17		across the inspector General community. The third interestion of this group was reactivated to respond to Hurricanes Horvey and Irms. The Notional Center for Obsister Froud has already received more than 500 compliohist. They typically see spikes at about 5 and 24 months after a disease; here were not necessary to the process of organizing lates three 18th and is in the process of organizing lates three 18th and is in the process of organizing lates three 18th and is in the process of organizing lates three 18th and is in the process of organizing lates three 18th and is in the process of organizing lates three 18th and 18th	missions: Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs), search and rescue, and base camp site security (NiRG Stadium).			
	9/21/17		across the inspector General community. The third interestion of this group was reactivated to respond to Hurricanes Horvey and Irms. The National Center for Obstater Froud has already received more than 300 complioists. They typically see a pikes at about 5 and 24 months after a doubter. The group was not have the 300 complioists. They typically see a pikes at about 5 and 24 months after a doubter. The group was not on September 18th and is in the process of organizing into these 18th and is in the process of organizing into these 18th and is in the process of organizing into the 18th and	missions: Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs), search and rescue, and base camp site security (NiRG Stadium).			
	9/21/27		across the inspector General community. The third interestion of this group was reactivated to respond to Hurricanes Horvey and Irms. The Notional Center for Obsister Froud has already received more than 500 compliohist. They typically see spikes at about 5 and 24 months after a disease; here were not necessary to the process of organizing lates three 18th and is in the process of organizing lates three 18th and is in the process of organizing lates three 18th and is in the process of organizing lates three 18th and is in the process of organizing lates three 18th and is in the process of organizing lates three 18th and 18th	missions: Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs), search and rescue, and base camp site security (NiRG Stadium).			



Δ.	В		D	E	E	G	н
				Harvey Recovery			
OPDIV/STAFFDIV/AGENCY	Date	POC	On-Going Activities (Since Last Report)	Key Actions and Accomplishments	Future Actions	Issues/Shortfalls/Concerns	
Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, HHS	9/21/17	Andrew Gettinger (Alternate: Rochel Nelson)	 Provide subject-matter expert consultant support via telephone to affected health core, public health, and health information service provider entitles. 	Supported local and state public health officials by engoging with relevant vendro (Creen) and facilitating their colloborative efforts to address problems with getting syndromic surveillance data reported to both the state & CDC in affected areas. **Coordinated with eth introflustructure service Surveicing soft our recovery process their status data on eRx and potient Rx history lookup volume trends for affected areas.	Pending approval and funding, might partner with Strategic Health Information Exchange Collaborative (SHIEC) to support efforts they suggested would be useful to help offsected states Hills successfully support patients, needs by improving interoperability and data matching across affected HIES.		
Small Business Administration	9/28/17	John Valliere	Disaster Loan Program representatives on the ground in TX, FL; property loans and economic injury loans available Counseling programs fully available in TX and FL	NSTR	Current application deadlines are Harvey: property Oct 24, EIDL May 25. Expect most property deadlines to be expected as they approach.		
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration	9/22/17	Anne Herron No recent updates in EM Portal.	Texos Recovery One SAMHTA person staffed the Joint Field Office (JFO) is Austin serving in the behavioral health liaison role for recovery operations. Her efforts have focused on linking with behavioral health stakeholders, addressing sacioi- informational requests and planning to conduct informational requests and planning to conduct informational requests on Since Harvey landfall. The Disaster Distress Heighine has addressed ,831 coint. 40 Disaster Distress Heighine has addressed ,831 coint. 40 Disaster Distress responsible for the Disaster Recovery Centers for use in the Texas Centers.	As of \$1/3/17 [EM Portal]: "The Crisis Counseling immediate Services Program Grant has been awarded to the State of Texas. "In will continue with the state as they stand up the program. As of \$9/8/13: Technical Assistance SAMM'SA has provided ongoing technical assistance to Texas authorities on multiple Issues, such as guidance prepared by the Texas State Opioid Technical Authority on Emergency Methodeno Eosing to be distributed to Opioid restment programs (OPPs); methodone protocol in shelter, assistance to the Notional Disaster Medical System to enhance the tracking of Individuals with behaviour hardst need; and compressed method hardst restrict entitleation by local regions for planning purposes. The Crisis Counseling Program, eTEMA funded and SAMM'SA administered program, the mah has provided technical assistance to Texas to prepare their application for the CCP grant. This grant will be a key component of recovery efforts. Grant Flexibility SAMM'SA provided guidence to the Impocted states that the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Boot	As of 94/17: In the all areas SAMHSA has issued press releases in both English and Spanish reminding citizens that the Dobaster Distress Religine is a call of vest execution. SAMHSA has also processed OTP waivers allowing toke home medications to be provided to maintain continuity of Medication Assisted Treatment in the impacted areas. Behaviarial health unthorities have been supplied with up to date resources, tip sheets and information to server their Citizens. Technical assistance is also available and is ongoing.	KSTR	
Veterans Affairs	9/29/17	Karen Pulsifer	Beaumont OPC remains closed: 3 Mobile Medical are on site to provide services. The MINI and MVC have served \$85(135) Veterans only. of the Mobile Cantens (MVC) have served \$85(135) Veterans only. of the Mobile Cantens Service has provided meals to 234 Veterans, Veteran family members, and non-Veterans - American Legion Post, Crosby TK NMUJ and MVC that has served 106 Veterans, 37(-2) Veteran family members, and 194(-2) ono-Veterans - Houston NIGC center: MVC has served 233 Veterans, 374 Veteran family members, and 281 for 104 Veterans, 372 Veterans, 373 Veterans, 374 Veterans, 374 Veterans, 375 Veterans, 37	Deployment of mobile assets in an expedited manner. Expedited assessments allowed the immediate beginning of facility repairs	Redeployment of mobile assets as service use declines and facilities return to normal operations and/or facility lease is successful and allows the reestablishment of full services Continue to provide Veteran outreach to disaster survivors	NSTR	



Harvey Recovery			the control of the co		
OPDIV/STAFFDIV/AGENCY	POC Name	Email	Office Phone	Mobile Phone	Asternate
Administration for Children and Families		-			100000
Administration for Community Living					
American Red Cross					
Assistant Secretary for Administration					
Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response					
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	Mallie Mahany	heu0@cdc.gov	404-285-8622		
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services					
Corporation for National and Community Service					
Department of Agriculture					
Department of Education					
Department of Homeland Security FEMA		-			
Department of Homeland Security - NPPD					
Department of Homeland Security - LRCL					
Department of Housing and Orban Development					
Department of the Interior					
Department of Justice					
Department of Labor					
Department of Transportation					
Department of the Treasury					
Environmental Protection Agency					
Food and Drug Administration				2 .	
Health Resources and Services Administration	CDR Kept Forde (Deployed)	%Forde@hrsa.gov	901-443-1074		
	CAPT Herrian Royes (RE Deputy Regional Administrator)	HReyes@hrsa.gov	214-767-6502		
Indian Health Service				(b)(6)	The second secon
National Institutes of Health	Chip Hughes	hughes3@niehs.nih.gov	919-541-0217	(b) (0)	Aubrey Miller
National Security Council					
National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster					
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health					
Small Business Administration					
Substance Atiuse and Mental Health Services Administration					
Veterans Affairs					



From: Hastings, Elizabeth (OS/ASPR/OEM)

Sent: 25 Oct 2017 00:47:01 +0000

To: anthony.benedetti@redcross.org;Cote, Mick

(OS/ASPR/OEM);john.kirchhoff@tx.usda.gov;John.Powell@tx.usda.gov;Catrina.Kamau@fns.usda.gov;Cora.Russell@fns.usda.gov;Deborah.Hill@dm.usda.gov;Jimmy.W.Wortham@aphis.usda.gov;Ronald.A.Walton@aphis.usda.gov;rsebenoler@eda.gov;Rpeche1@eda.gov;mickie@valenteadvisors.com;madeline.sullivan@ed.gov;wayne.rickard@fema.dhs.gov;traci.brasher@fema.dhs.gov;emily.meyer@fema.dhs.gov;brian.parsons@HQ.dhs.gov;Carol.D.Jones@hud.gov;richard_dawson@ios.doi.gov;daria.neal@usdoj.gov;huddleston.douglas@dol.gov;ken.lord@dot.gov;scott.canty@treasury.gov;hurst.dena@epa.gov;damian@onestarfoundation.org;timothy.jeffcoat@sba.gov;anthony.ruiz@sba.gov;angela.burton@sba.gov;danny.shine@va.gov;HSS RSF Team - Harvey;Pope Jackson, LaKesha (ACF);Devine, Percy (ACL);Taylor, Amyo (OS/ASPR/OEM);Simmons, Jerome (CDC/OPHPR/DSLR);Young, Patrick (ATSDR/DCHI/CB);Mora, Sergio A. (CMS/CQISCO);McAtamney, James;Reyes, Hernan (HRSA);Wellspring, Howard W. (IHS/DES);Hughes, Chip (NIH/NIEHS) [E];Massoudi, Mehran (HHS/OASH);Hearod, Karen (SAMHSA);Teuscher, David (HHS/IEA);Chapman, Jonathan (FDA/OC)

Cc: McLanahan, Eva (ATSDR/DCHI/OD);mary.curry-ledbetter@j-mglobal.com;mary.curry-ledbetter@j-mglobal.com

Subject: Hurricane Harvey Health and Social Services Recovery Region VI

Coordination Group Call

Attachments: Landscape Assessment Team Orientation_FINAL[5].compressed-2.pdf, HSS RSF Regional Coordination Meeting Summary 10.19.17_v3.docx, Landscape Discussion Proposal V5 (002).pdf

Importance: High



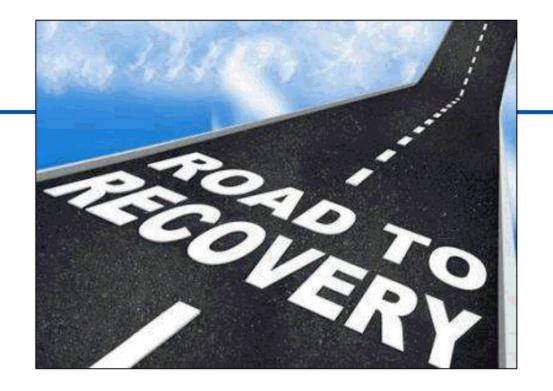




Agenda:

- Roll Call
- Purpose of the group/call
- Harvey Landscape Assessment Progress update
- Next Steps
- Adjourn





Health and Social Services Recovery Support Function Partners

October 23, 2017





Recovery Landscape Assessment Team Orientation

Health & Social Services (HSS)
Recovery Support Function (RSF)
Hurricane Harvey





Health and Social Services Recovery: Why are we here?







"We've seen an increase in respiratory issues and cellulitis."











"Our most vulnerable are falling through the cracks."











"Two nursing homes in our area have closed permanently."

Training Agenda

- 1. Recovery Fundamentals
 - National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF)
 - Health and Social Services (HSS) Recovery Support Function (RSF)
- 2. Hurricane Harvey HSS RSF Operations
- 3. Landscape Assessment





Recovery Fundamentals

National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF)



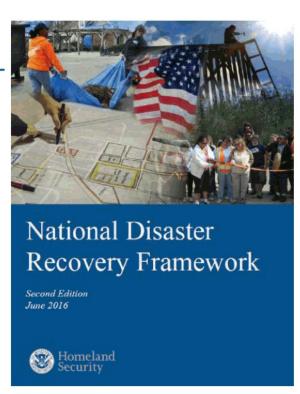
Health and Social Services (HSS)

Recovery Support Function (RSF)



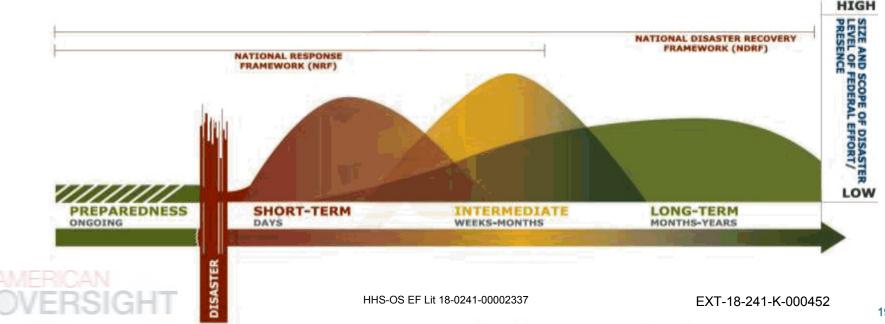
National Disaster Recovery Framework

- Established Recovery Support Functions (RSFs) to organize recovery activities:
 - Community Planning and Capacity Building FEMA
 - Housing HUD
 - Economic Commerce
 - Infrastructure Systems USACE
 - Natural and Cultural Resources DOI
 - Health and Social Services HHS
- Emphasizes local primacy, unity of effort, and pre-disaster planning



National Disaster Recovery Framework Concepts

- Recovery starts with response
- Recovery supports ESF actions
- Recovery actions begin with situational awareness and impact evaluation – often through interagency coordination



10 Primary & 7 Supporting Agencies

Primary:

- Department of Health and Human Services
- Corporation for National and Community Service
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Homeland Security
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Department of the Interior
- Department of Justice
- Department of Labor
- Environmental Protection Agency

Supporting:

- American Red Cross
- Department of Education
- Department of Transportation
- Department of the Treasury
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- National Voluntary Organizations in Disaster
- Small Business Administration



Nine Core Mission Areas

Public Health

Healthcare Services Behavioral Health

Environmental Health

Food Safety & Regulated Medical Products

Long-term Responder Health Issues

Social Services

Disaster Case Management Children and Youth in Disasters



Why so broad?

- Consequences to health and social services do not respect organizational authorities and functions after a disaster
- Any existing challenges in the 9 core areas in a community are often amplified by a disaster
- A systematic approach is necessary to address interconnected recovery issues and <u>build capacity</u>

Health & Social Services (HSS) Recovery Support Function (RSF)

In partnership with the state:



Texas Department of State Health Services

- Conduct a Mission Scoping Assessment (MSA)
 - Identify overarching issues related to HSS recovery
- Develop a Recovery Support Strategy (RSS)
 - Identify Federal capabilities available to support HSS recovery



3. Implement/Facilitate the RSS

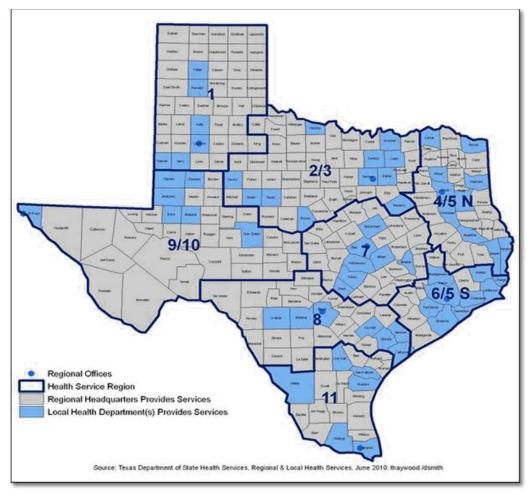


Texas -**DSHS/Local Health Departments**



Texas Department of State Health Services

Emily Hall - DSHS







HHSC Behavioral Health Services



TEXAS RESILIENCE AND RECOVERY (TRR): MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH: 39 Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs)

- Adult Mental Health Services
- Children Mental Health Services
- Crisis Services

RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTERS: Prevention of Parental Relinquishment



RECOVERY ORIENTED SYSTEMS OF CARE (ROSC): SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (SUD) SERVICES

INTERVENTION

- Outreach, Screening And Referral
- Specific Population Pregnant Female (PPI) and Men Involved with Dept. Family Protective Services (PADRE)
- Early Intervention (HEI) and HIV

TREATMENT

- Residential, Outpatient and Recovery Services
- Texas Targeted Opioid Response (TTOR)

RECOVERY HOUSING



SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION SERVICES

- · Youth Prevention Services
- Community Coalition Partnerships
- · Prevention Resource Centers
- Strategic Prevention Framework for Prescription Drugs
- Texas Targeted Opioid Response - Prevention

SUICIDE PREVENTION / POSTVENTION SERVICES

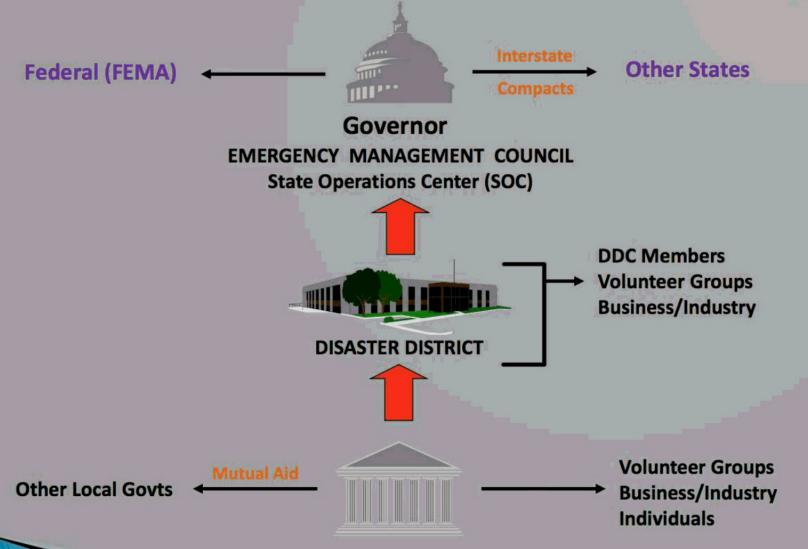


DISASTER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

DISASTER CRISIS SERVICES



Formal Resource Request Process (courtesy of TDEM)







United States Department of

Health & Human Services

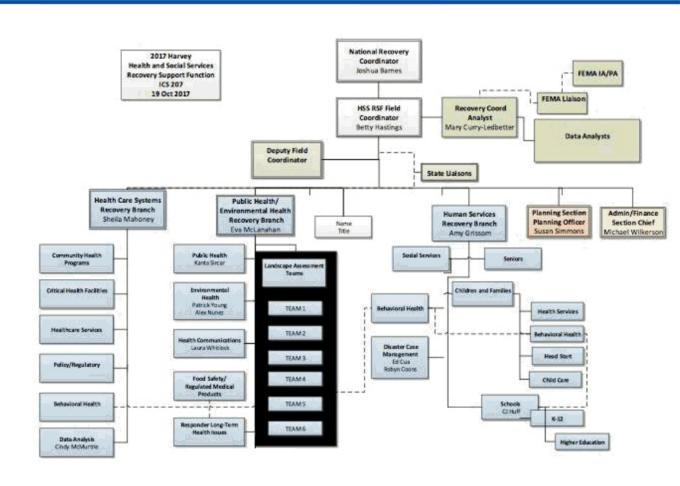






HSS RSF ICS Organization

Public Health/ **Environmental Health Recovery Branch** Eva McLanahan Landscape Assessment **Teams** TEAM 1 TEAM 2 TEAM 3 TEAM 4 TEAM 5 TEAM 6



HHS-OS EF Lit 18-0241-00002348

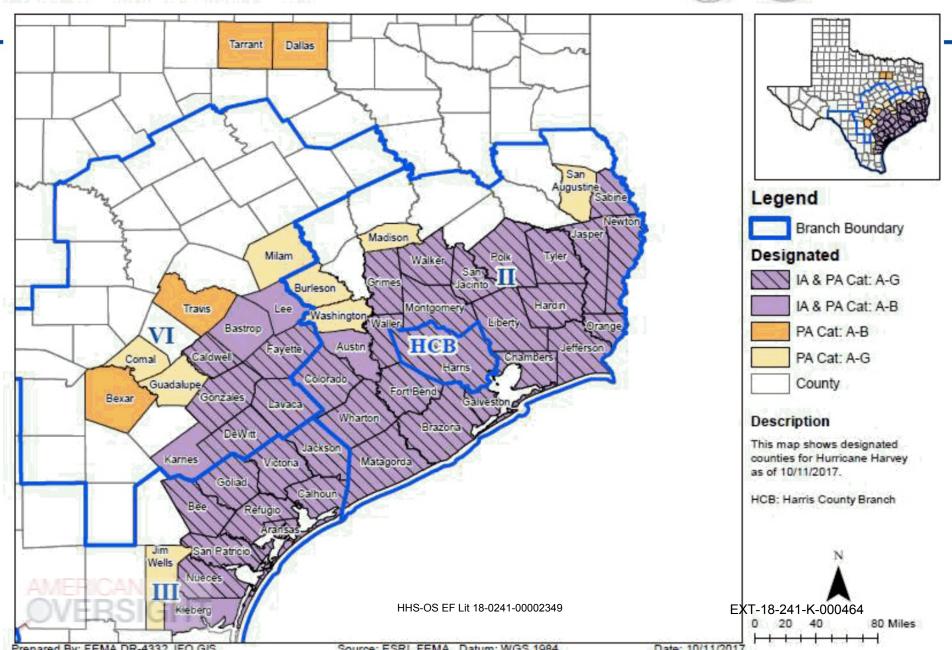
EXT-18-241-K-000463

FEMA-4332-DR-TX - Hurricane Harvey

Incident Map (Amendment 10)







Impacts

Environmental Health

- 30 million cubic yards of debris
- 315 drinking water/wastewater facilities damaged, 61 communities lost drinking water systems
- 6,000+ private wells likely inundated by flood waters
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) reports there were 520 sanitary sewage overflow events leading to over 22 M gallons of raw sewage spilled. In addition, there were 51 industrial discharge events, spilling over 126 M gallons of industrial discharge.

Health Care Systems

- 24 hospitals evacuated
- 3 hospitals, 9 dialysis centers, 14 nursing homes, 5 community health facilities, and 9 intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities remain closed

Impacts

Human Services

- 200 Texas ISDs reported closures, impacting 1 million students
- 513 Child Care operations are currently closed (both home-based and center-based), affecting up to 42,309 children. 325 of the 343 Head Start Centers located in the impacted counties are now operational. Nine remain closed due to storm related damage.

Behavioral Health

- Since 1 OCT, SAMHSA's Disaster Distress Hotline has received approximately 100 calls per day.
- 58 behavioral health centers were damaged, and 12 were closed completely, leaving some communities without access to any behavioral health services







Landscape Assessment Process Overview

